

E

e or E /'i:/ *noun*, *pl e's or es or E's or Es*

1 : the fifth letter of the English alphabet [count] a word that begins with an *e* [noncount] a word that begins with *e*

2 : the musical note or key referred to by the letter E : the third tone of a C-major scale [count] play/sing an *E* [noncount] a song in the key of *E*

an *E* for effort see EFFORT

E *abbr* east, eastern

e- *combining form* : electronic : Internet : online • *e-mail* • *e-commerce* [=commerce on the Internet] • *e-retailing*

¹each /'i:tʃ/ *adj* : every one of two or more people or things considered separately • A rope was tied to *each* end of the boat. • *Each* student had a different explanation. • *Each* student has done his best. = *Each* student has done his or her best. = (*informal*) *Each* student has done their best. • *Each* one of them has done his/her best. = (*informal*) *Each* one of them has done their best. • *Each* one of us took a turn. [=we each took a turn] • *Each* one of them costs 50 cents. [=they each cost 50 cents]

each and every — used as a more forceful way of saying *each* • I want to thank *each and every* person who has contributed to this project.

²each *pronoun* : each one • *Each* of us took a turn. = We *each* took a turn. • *Each* (of them) costs 50 cents. • They *each* have done their best. = They have *each* done their best. • He took shot after shot, *each* missing by inches.

to each his own or each to his own — used to say that other people are free to like different things than you do • I don't care for football, but *to each his own*.

³each *adv* : to or for each : APIECE • They cost 50 cents *each*. • We were allowed two tries *each*.

each other *pronoun* : each of two or more people, animals, etc., who are doing something together or in relationship to the other or others in the group • My brother and I looked at *each other*. [=we looked at one another; he looked at me and I looked at him] • The twins can wear *each other's* clothes. [=each one can wear the other's clothes]

made for each other see ²MADE

ea-ger /'i:gə/ *adj* [more ~; most ~] : very excited and interested • an *eager* student • *eager* enthusiasm/anticipation : feeling a strong and impatient desire to do something or for something • She was *eager* to get started. • They were *eager* to hear the latest news. = They were *eager* for the latest news. • The crowd was *eager* for more.

— **ea-ger-ly** *adv* • The news was *eagerly* awaited. • His offer was *eagerly* [=enthusiastically] accepted. — **ea-ger-ness** *noun* [noncount] • In their *eagerness* to leave they forgot to lock the door.

eager beaver *noun*, *pl* ~-vers [count] *informal* : a person who is very enthusiastic about doing something : a hard-working and eager person • When she first started working she was a real *eager beaver*.

¹ea-gle /'i:gəl/ *noun*, *pl* *ea-gles*

1 [count] : a large bird that has very good eyesight and that kills other birds and animals for food — see color picture on page C9

2 *golf* : a golf score of two strokes less than par on a hole [count] She made/scored an *eagle* on the fourth hole. [noncount] She made *eagle* on the fourth hole. — compare BIRD-IE, BOGEY

²eagle *verb* *eagles*; *ea-gled*; *ea-gling* [+ *obj*] : to score an eagle on (a hole in golf) • She *eagled* the fourth hole.

eagle eye *noun*

1 *eagle eyes* [plural] : eyes that watch or look carefully and see or notice many things • watching with *eagle eyes* • students working under the *eagle eyes* of the teacher

2 [count] : an unusually good ability to see or notice things • an editor with an *eagle eye* • an editor with *eagle eyes*

3 [singular] : close watch • The guard *kept an eagle eye on* the prisoner. [=the guard watched the prisoner very closely]

— **ea-gle-eyed** /'i:gəl,aid/ *adj* [more ~; most ~] • an *eagle-eyed* [=sharp-eyed] proofreader

Eagle Scout *noun*, *pl* ~ *Scouts* [count] : a Boy Scout who has reached the highest level of achievement in scouting

ea-glet /'i:glət/ *noun*, *pl* -glets [count] : a young eagle

-**ean** see ¹-AN

¹ear /'iə/ *noun*, *pl* *ears*

1 [count] : the part of the body that you hear with • He was whispering something in her *ear*. • a dog with floppy *ears* • *pierced ears* [=ears with earlobes that have been pierced for wearing earrings] — see picture at FACE

2 [singular] **a** : an ability to understand and appreciate something heard • He has a good *ear* for music/languages. **b** — used to describe the way something sounds to you • It sounds a little old-fashioned to my *ear*. [=it sounds old-fashioned to me]

3 [count] : attention that is shown or given by listening to what someone says • Thanks for your *ear*. [=thanks for listening] • When I told my story, my brother *listened with only half an ear*. [=did not listen closely] ♦ To *lend an ear* or, in literary language, to *lend someone your ears* is to listen to what someone has to say. • She's always willing to *lend a sympathetic ear*. • "Friends, Romans, countrymen, *lend me your ears*." —Shakespeare, *Julius Caesar* (1599)

all ears *informal* — used to say that someone is listening very closely • As I told the story, my daughter was *all ears*.

a word in someone's ear see ¹WORD

bend someone's ear see ¹BEND

box someone's ears see ³BOX

can't believe your ears see BELIEVE

cock an/your ear see ²COCK

ears are burning ♦ If *your ears are burning* or you *feel your ears burning*, you have the feeling that other people are talking about you. • (*humorous*) "We were talking about you last night." "That explains why I *felt my ears burning*."

ears pop see ¹POP

fall on deaf ears : to fail to be heard : to be ignored • Her pleas for mercy *fell on deaf ears*.

grin/smile from ear to ear : to smile widely : to have a big smile on your face • He was *grinning from ear to ear*.

have someone's ear ♦ If you *have someone's ear* you can talk and give advice to that person because you are trusted. • an adviser who *has the President's ear*

in one ear and out the other : through someone's mind without being remembered or noticed • Everything you say to him goes *in one ear and out the other*. [=he doesn't listen to or remember what you say]

out on your ear *informal* : forced out : thrown out • If you're late to work again, you'll be *out on your ear*! [=you'll be fired]

play by ear **1** ♦ To play a song or a piece of music *by ear* is to play it after hearing it without looking at written music. • He could play any tune *by ear* after hearing it only once.

2 ♦ To *play it by ear* is to do something without special preparation. • I don't know how they'll react to our proposal, so we'll just have to *play it by ear* [=improvise, (*informal*) wing it] and hope for the best.

set (something) on its ear *informal* : to cause something to be in a state of great excitement or shock • She *set* the racing world *on its ear* [=she surprised and shocked the racing world] by winning several major races. • His early recordings *set* the jazz world *on its ear*. [=his recordings caused a sensation in the jazz world]

talk someone's ear off see ¹TALK

turn a deaf ear : to refuse to listen to what someone says • The company president *turned a deaf ear* to my proposals.

up to your ears : deeply involved in something • They are *up to their ears* in debt. [=they are deeply in debt] • We're *up to our ears* in work. [=we are very busy]

wet behind the ears see ¹WET

— compare ²EAR

— **eared** /'iəd/ *adj* • a long-eared dog — **ear-less** /'iələs/ *adj*

²ear *noun*, *pl* *ears* [count] : the part of a corn plant on which the seeds grow • an *ear* of corn — compare ¹EAR

ear-ache /iə,eik/ *noun*, *pl* -aches : an ache or pain in the ear [count] He has/gets frequent *earaches*. [noncount] (*chiefly Brit*) • He has/gets frequent *earache*.

ear canal *noun*, *pl* ~-nals [count] : the tube that leads into the ear

ear candy *noun* [noncount] *US, informal* : music that is

pleasing to listen to but is not serious or interesting

ear-drum /'iə,drʌm/ *noun*, *pl* -drums [*count*] : a thin, tightly stretched piece of tissue in the ear that vibrates when sound waves hit it

ear-ful /'iə,fʊl/ *noun* [*singular*] *informal* : a lot of angry talk • I got an *earful* about what a bad job I had done. • He gave me an *earful*.

earl /'ɜ:l/ *noun*, *pl* earls [*count*] : a high-ranking member of the British nobility

earliest *noun*

at the earliest — used to indicate the earliest possible time when something will happen or be done • The job will not be finished until next year *at the* (very) *earliest*. [=it will not be finished before next year] — compare LATEST

ear-lobe /'iə,ləʊb/ *noun*, *pl* -lobes [*count*] : the soft part of the ear that hangs down from the bottom — see picture at FACE

¹ear-ly /'ɜ:li/ *adv* ear-li-er; -est

1 : at or near the beginning of a period of time or a process, activity, series, etc. • *Early* in his career he moved to the city. • a word first recorded *early* in the 17th century • They were trailing by a touchdown *early* in the fourth quarter. • We learned *early* [=early on] not to question his decisions. • The package should be arriving *early* next week. — opposite LATE

2 : before the usual or expected time • She arrived *early* to help with the preparations. • I got up *early* to finish packing. • I got up *bright and early*. [=very early] — opposite LATE

early on : at or during an early point or stage • The reasons were obvious *early on* [=early] in the experiment. ✧ *Early on* originated in British English. Some American writers have objected to it, but it is now very common in the U.S. Note that unlike *early*, *early on* can appear at the beginning of a sentence. • *Early on*, the project was in trouble.

²early *adj* earlier; -est

1 a : existing or happening near the beginning of a period of time • *early* morning • the *early* 20th century • He is in his *early* thirties. [=he is about 31 or 32 years old] • She works the *early* shift. [=the shift that is in the early part of the day] • It was still *early* (in the morning) when she got out of bed. — opposite LATE **b** *always used before a noun* : happening near the beginning of a process, activity, series, etc. • the *early* symptoms of the disease • the composer's *early* works [=works created at the beginning of the composer's career] • The *early* part of the book is better than the later part.

2 a : coming or happening before the usual or expected time • We had an *early* spring this year. • an *early* bedtime • We're *early*. The show doesn't start for half an hour. — opposite LATE **b** : doing something before the usual time or before others usually do • I've always been an *early* riser. • My daughter was an *early* reader. [=she learned to read at a young age] ✧ The expression *the early bird catches/gets the worm* means that people who start or arrive before others are more likely to succeed. — opposite LATE

early days (yet) *Brit* — used to say that it is too soon to know how something will turn out • Things haven't gone well so far, but it's *early days yet*.

early hours see HOUR

get/make an early start : to get started on a journey, activity, etc., early in the day • We want to *make an early start* tomorrow.

make an early night of it : to go home or go to bed early • They decided to *make an early night of it*.

¹ear-mark /'iə,mɑ:k/ *noun*, *pl* -marks [*count*] : a mark or quality that shows what something is or what it could be • The business plan *had (all) the earmarks* of success. [=it seemed likely to succeed] — compare HALLMARK

²earmark *verb* -marks; -marked; -mark-ing [+ *obj*]

1 : to say that something will be used or treated in a specified way — often used as (*be*) *earmarked* • The old building *has been earmarked* for demolition.

2 : to put (money) aside for a special purpose • The project uses funds that had been *earmarked* for education.

ear-muff /'iə,mʌf/ *noun*, *pl* -muffs [*count*] : either one of a pair of pads that cover the ears to keep them warm and that are connected by a flexible band • wearing a pair of *earmuffs*

earn /'ɜ:n/ *verb* earns; earned; earn-ing [+ *obj*]

1 : to get (money, a salary, etc.) for work that you have done • She *earns* a good salary. • I need to *earn* some money. • He will do anything to *earn his keep*. [=to earn what is needed to support himself] • She's just trying to *earn a living*. [=to earn the money needed for food, clothing, etc.]

2 a : to deserve or get (something) because of something you have done • He *earned* a promotion through hard work. • The team has *earned* [=gained] a reputation for poor sportsmanship. • She needs to *earn* [=gain, win] their trust/respect. **b** : to make (someone) worthy or deserving of (something) • His hard work *earned* [=gained] him a promotion. • Her honesty *earned* [=gained, won] her their trust/respect.

earn a/your crust see CRUST

earn your spurs see ¹SPUR

earn your stripes see ¹STRIPE

— **earn-er** *noun*, *pl* -ers [*count*] • high *earn-ers* on Wall Street

¹ear-nest /'ɜ:nɛst/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : serious and sincere : not lighthearted or playful • an *earnest* plea for help • an *earnest* young journalist

— **ear-nest-ly** *adv* • speaking *earnestly* — **ear-nest-ness** /'ɜ:nɛstnəs/ *noun* [*noncount*]

²earnest *noun*

in earnest **1** : in an earnest or serious way • The search began *in earnest* when the police arrived. • It began to rain *in earnest* [=heavily] in the evening. • It's hard to tell if he's making this proposal *in earnest*. **2** : not fooling : serious and sincere • We thought he was joking at first, but then we realized that he was *in earnest*. [=he was being serious] — compare *for real* at ¹REAL

earn-ings /'ɜ:nɪŋz/ *noun* [*plural*] : money received as wages or gained as profit • corporate *earnings*

ear-phone /'iə,fəʊn/ *noun*, *pl* -phones [*count*] : a device that is worn over or inserted into the ear and is used for listening to something (such as music or a radio) without having other people hear it

ear-piece /'iə,pɪ:s/ *noun*, *pl* -piec-es [*count*]

1 : a part of a device that is placed in the ear for listening to something • the *earpiece* of a stethoscope

2 : either one of the two pieces that support eyeglasses by resting on the ears

ear-plug /'iə,plʌg/ *noun*, *pl* -plugs [*count*] : a piece of soft material that you put in your ear to keep out water, noise, etc.

ear-ring /'i:ɪŋ/ *noun*, *pl* -rings [*count*] : a piece of jewelry that is worn on the ear and especially on the earlobe — see color picture on page C11

ear-shot /'iə,ʃɔ:t/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the distance within which someone's voice can be heard • They were *within ear-shot* of each other. • We waited until he was *out of earshot* [=until he could no longer hear us] before speaking again.

ear-split-ting /'iə,splɪtɪŋ/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *of a sound* : extremely loud or harsh • The train's whistle made an *earsplitting* noise.

¹earth /'ɜ:θ/ *noun*

1 or Earth [*singular*] : the planet on which we live • (The) *Earth* is the third planet from the sun. • life on *earth* • the planet *Earth* • Many species are in danger of vanishing from (the face of) the *earth*.

2 [*noncount*] : land as opposed to the sea, the air, etc. • The moisture will eventually fall to *earth* in the form of rain or snow. • We could feel the *earth* shake.

3 [*noncount*] : the material in which plants grow : SOIL • a mound of *earth*

4 [*count*] *Brit* : ¹GROUND 10

5 [*singular*] *chiefly Brit, informal* : a large amount of money • furniture that looks good and that doesn't cost the *earth* • pay the *earth*

(a) **heaven on earth** see HEAVEN

move heaven and earth see ¹MOVE

on earth **1** : in the world • It's the tallest building *on earth*. • She said she wouldn't marry him if he were the last man *on earth*. • He says that *nothing on earth* will change his mind.

2 — used to make a question more forceful • *Why on earth* [=in the world, ever] did you do that? • What *on earth* is he talking about? • Where *on earth* are my keys?

promise someone the earth see ²PROMISE

the ends of the earth see ¹END

the salt of the earth see ¹SALT

²earth *verb* earths; earthed; earth-ing [+ *obj*] *Brit* : ²GROUND 5 • The appliance is dangerous unless properly *earthed*. [= (US) grounded]

earth-bound /'ɜ:θ,baʊnd/ *adj*

1 : located on the surface of the earth : not able to fly or to go to outer space • *earthbound* astronomers

2 : not having or showing imagination • a dull and *earth-bound* mind

earth-en /'əθən/ *adj*, always used before a noun : made of earth or of baked clay • an *earthen* dam • *earthen* [=earthenware] dishes

earth-en-ware /'əθən,weə/ *noun* [noncount] : a heavy substance that is made by baking clay and that is usually covered with another substance (called a glaze) before it is baked so that it will not absorb water • The dish is made of/ from *earthenware*. • *earthenware* pottery

earth-ling /'əθlɪŋ/ *noun*, *pl* -lings [count] : a human being living on Earth • *Earthling* is usually used in stories and movies that involve creatures from outer space.

earth-ly /'əθli/ *adj*, always used before a noun

1 : having to do with life on the Earth • *earthly* joys/delights/pleasures • our *earthly* existence — compare EARTHY

2 : imaginable or possible — used to make a question or a negative statement more forceful • What *earthly* [=possible, conceivable] good could it do him? • There is no *earthly* reason [=there is no reason on earth; there is no reason at all] for feeling that way.

earth mother *noun*, *pl* ~ -thers [count] : a woman who takes care of other people and has qualities that are associated with being a mother in a traditional culture where people live in a simple and natural way

earth-quake /'əθ,kweɪk/ *noun*, *pl* -quakes : a shaking of a part of the earth's surface that often causes great damage [count] a devastating *earthquake* [noncount] a building destroyed by *earthquake* — called also *quake*

earth-shak-ing /'əθ,ʃeɪkɪŋ/ *adj* [more ~; most ~] : very important • an *earthshaking* [=momentous] decision/event

earth-shat-ter-ing /'əθ'ʃætərɪŋ/ *adj* [more ~; most ~] : very important : EARTHSHAKING • There haven't been any *earthshattering* developments lately.

earth tone *noun*, *pl* ~ tones [count] chiefly US : a color that contains some brown • She wears a lot of *earth tones*.

— *earth-toned adj*

earth-work /'əθ,wɜ:k/ *noun*, *pl* -works [count] : a raised bank or wall made of soil — usually plural • prehistoric *earthworks*

earth-worm /'əθ,wɜ:m/ *noun*, *pl* -worms [count] : a long worm that lives in damp soil

earthy /'əθi/ *adj* **earth-i-er; -est**

1 : suggesting earth or soil in texture, odor, color, etc. • *earthy* aromas • a blend of *earthy* colors • The wine had an *earthy* flavor. — compare EARTHLY

2 [more ~; most ~] a : practical and straightforward : open and direct • Critics were impressed by the movie's *earthy* realism. • an *earthy* [=down-to-earth] person b chiefly US : plain and simple in style • food made with simple, *earthy* ingredients c : not polite : somewhat rude or crude • *earthy* humor

— *earth-i-ness noun* [noncount] • the *earthiness* of the ingredients/humor

ear-wax /'iə,wæks/ *noun* [noncount] : a waxlike substance produced inside the ear

ear-wig /'iə,wɪg/ *noun*, *pl* -wigs [count] : an insect that has long, thin feelers and two curved, pointed parts at the end of the body — see color picture on page C10

¹ease /'i:z/ *noun* [noncount]

1 : freedom from pain or trouble : comfort of body or mind • a life of *ease*

2 : lack of difficulty • The program is known for its *ease* of use. [=it is easy to use] • I was able to do it *with* (surprising) *ease*. [=easily] • These features can be modified *with the greatest of ease*. [=very easily]

3 : a relaxed and informal way of behaving • He delighted people with his charm and *ease* of manner. [=his relaxed and easy manner]

at ease 1 also **at your ease** : in a relaxed and comfortable state • Her relaxed manner at the meeting put/set everyone *at (their) ease*. • They no longer felt *at ease* [=comfortable] with each other. • You can *set/put your mind at ease*. [=you can relax and stop worrying] — see also ILL AT EASE 2 : standing silently with the feet apart and one or both hands behind the body • The troops *stood at ease*. — often used as a military command • *At ease!* compare *at attention* at ATTENTION

take your ease : to rest or relax • I found him *taking his ease* on the front porch.

²ease *verb* **eas-es; eased; eas-ing**

1 [+ *obj*] : to free (someone or something) from trouble or worry • *trying to ease my troubled mind*

2 [+ *obj*] : to make (something) less painful • We were unable

to *ease* [=alleviate] their suffering.

3 a [+ *obj*] : to make (tension, a problem, etc.) less severe or troubling • The diplomats failed to *ease* tensions between the two nations. • Authorities are looking for ways to *ease* prison overcrowding. • The government is expected to *ease* travel restrictions. b [no *obj*] : to become less severe or troubling • Tensions have *eased* [=moderated] in recent weeks.

4 always followed by an adverb or preposition a [+ *obj*] : to move (someone or something) gently or carefully • He *eased* the car into the parking space. • She *eased* herself into the driver's seat. • They *eased* the heavy block into position. b [no *obj*] : to move or pass slowly or easily • The car *eased* out into traffic. • She wants to *ease* into her new job slowly.

ease off or ease up [phrasal verb] : to become less severe • The slope gradually *eased off*. • The pressure should *ease up* soon.

ease up on [phrasal verb] 1 a **ease up on (someone)** : to treat (someone) in a less harsh or demanding way • The students might respond better if the teacher *eased up on* them a little. b **ease up on (something)** : to apply less pressure to (something) • *ease up on* the accelerator 2 **ease up on (something)** : to do or use less of (something) • My doctor told me I should *ease up on* fatty foods.

ea-sel /'i:zəl/ *noun*, *pl* -sels [count] : a frame for supporting an artist's painting

eas-i-ly /'i:zəli/ *adv*

1 [more ~; most ~] : in an easy manner : without difficulty • We won the game *easily*. [=with ease] • These ingredients are *easily* obtained. • I'm too heavy to be carried *easily*.

2 : by a great extent or degree : by far • She's *easily* the best player on the team. [=she is much better than the other players]

breathe easily see BREATHE

¹east /'i:st/ *noun*

1 [noncount] : the direction where the sun rises : the direction that is the opposite of west • The city is framed by mountain ranges to the *east* and west. • The wind blew from the *east*. • Which way is *east*?

2 **the east or the East** : regions or countries east of a certain point: such as a : the eastern part of the U.S. • This summer has been unusually hot in *the East*. b : the countries of Asia (such as Japan, China, and Korea) — see also FAR EAST, MIDDLE EAST

²east *adj*, always used before a noun

1 : lying toward or at the east • the *east* side of town

2 : coming from the east • an *east* wind

³east *adv* : to or toward the east • The ships sailed *east*. [=east-erly, eastward]

back East or back east US, informal : in or toward the eastern part of a country or region • She attended college *back East*.

east-bound /'i:st,baʊnd/ *adj* : going toward the east • an *eastbound* train

Eas-ter /'i:stə/ *noun*, *pl* -ters [count, noncount] : a Christian church festival that celebrates the return of Jesus Christ to life following his death; also : the Sunday in early spring on which this festival is observed — often used before another noun • *Easter* Sunday • an *Easter* egg [=an egg that is specially decorated at Easter] • an *Easter* basket [=a basket of candy, toys, etc., that is given to children at Easter]

Easter lily *noun*, *pl* ~ lilies [count] : a white garden flower that blooms in spring

east-er-ly /'i:stəli/ *adj* [more ~; most ~]

1 : located or moving toward the east • They sailed in an *easterly* direction.

2 : blowing from the east • an *easterly* wind

east-ern /'i:stən/ *adj*

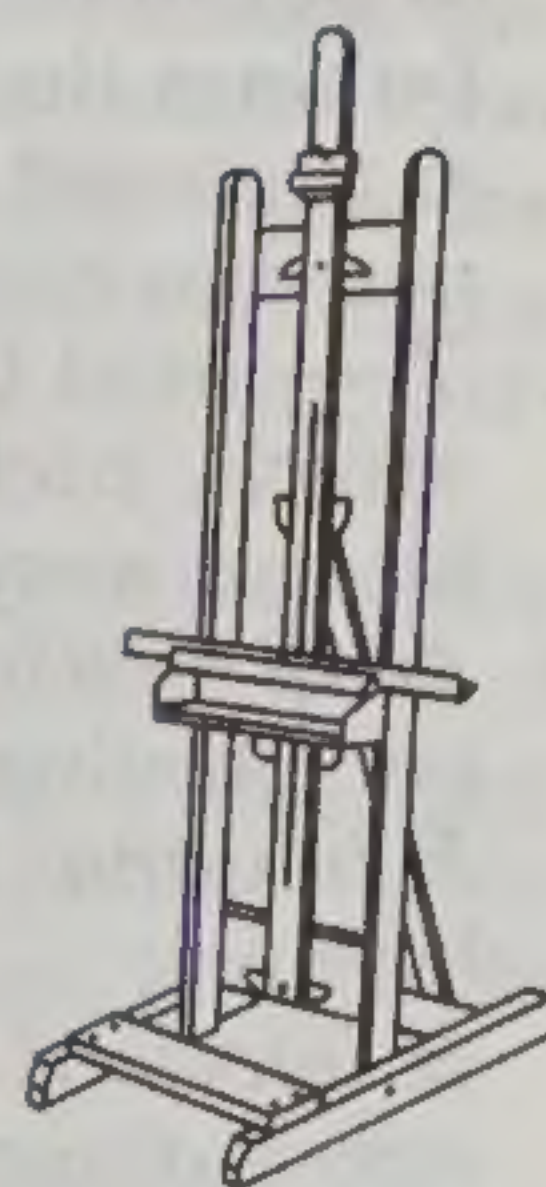
1 [more ~; most ~] : located toward the east • They live in the *eastern* part of the state. • the *eastern* shore of the river • *Eastern* Europe

2 **Eastern** : of or relating to the countries of Asia : ASIAN • *Eastern* philosophy

— *east-ern-most* /'i:stən,məʊst/ *adj*

East-ern-er /'i:stənə/ *noun*, *pl* -ers [count] : a person born or living in the East; especially : a person born or living in the eastern U.S. — compare WESTERNER

east-ward /'i:stwəd/ also chiefly Brit **east-wards** /'i:stwədz/ *adv* [more ~; most ~] : toward the east • We sailed *eastward*. [=east]



easel

– **eastward** *adj* • an *eastward* course

1 easy /'i:zi/ *adj* **eas-i-er; -est**

1 : not hard to do : not difficult • an *easy* lesson • It's surprisingly *easy* to use. • It was an *easy* decision to make. • They scored an *easy* goal late in the game. • It wasn't *easy* for her to leave home. • He's an *easy* person (for other people) to like. = It's *easy* (for other people) to like him. • There are no *easy* solutions to this problem. • He likes to keep a dictionary *within easy reach* [=nearby] when he's writing.

2 a : free from pain, trouble, or worry • He's had an *easy* life. • This new schedule should make our lives *easier*. • I hope this will make things *easier* for you. • I won't feel *easy* until I know that she arrived safely. • an *easy* mind **b** : not hurried • We proceeded at an *easy* [=leisurely] pace. **c** : not requiring much strength or energy • *easy*, gentle movements

3 a : not harsh or severe in punishing or criticizing someone • I think they're being too *easy* on him. [=they're not criticizing/punishing him harshly enough] **b** : not hard to please • an *easy* [=lenient] teacher ✧ The informal phrase *I'm easy* is used as a way of saying that you are easy to please and will accept what someone else decides. • "Should we stay at home or go out?" "Whatever you like: *I'm easy*."

4 : not steep • *easy* slopes

5 informal : not hard to get • *easy* money • *easy* pickings [=things that are easy to get]

6 : relaxed and informal • He has an *easy* [=easygoing] manner. • an *easy* smile — see also *free and easy* at **1** FREE

7 — used to describe someone or something that is easy to attack, trick, criticize, etc. • His lack of experience makes him an *easy target* for his political enemies. • insects that are *easy prey* for many birds • (US) He's an *easy mark* for anyone needing a loan.

8 informal : lightly pleasant and enjoyable • music for *easy* listening

9 informal + old-fashioned : not sexually respectable • an *easy* woman [=a woman who has sex with many men] • *easy* morals • a woman of *easy* virtue

(as) *easy as ABC* or (as) *easy as pie* or (as) *easy as falling off a log informal* : very easy • Getting the permit turned out to be *as easy as pie*.

easy on the eye or US *easy on the eyes informal* : easy or pleasant to look at • The monitor's display is *easy on the eyes*. • She's very *easy on the eyes*. [=pretty, good-looking]

over *easy* see **3** OVER

– **eas-i-ness** *noun* [noncount]

2 easy *adv* **easier; -est** : without difficulty or stress • He just wants to take life *easy* now. • The repairs will cost \$100, *easy*. [=the repairs will cost at least \$100] • "We just need to raise the money." "That's *easier said than done*" [=that will not be easy to do] • Success hasn't *come easy* for her. [=success has not been easy to achieve]

breathe easy see BREATHE

easy come, easy go informal — used to say that you are not bothered about losing something • His attitude toward money has always been, *easy come, easy go*.

easy does it informal — used to tell someone to move slowly and carefully • *Easy does it!* We don't want anyone to get hurt.

go easy informal **1 go easy on (someone)** : to treat (someone) in a way that is not harsh or demanding • The students might respond better if the teacher *went* (a little) *easy* on them. **2 go easy on/with (something)** : to use less of (something) • My doctor said to *go easy on* fatty foods.

nice and easy see NICE

rest easy see **3** REST

take it easy informal **1** : to relax and avoid hard work or strain • The doctor told her she should *take it easy* for a while. **2** : to stay or become calm and unexcited — usually used as a command • *Take it easy*, Joe. Everything is going to be just fine.

easy chair *noun*, *pl* ~ **chairs** [count] : a chair that is large, soft, and very comfortable

easy-go-ing /,i:zi'gɔwɪn/ *adj* [more ~; most ~] : relaxed and informal • an *easygoing* boss • a boss with an *easygoing* [=easy] manner

easy street *noun* [singular] : a situation with no worries : a situation of wealth and ease • If I'd been smarter about investing my money, I could be *on easy street* now. [=I could be rich now]

eat /'i:t/ *verb* **eats; ate** /'eɪt, Brit 'et, 'eɪt/; **eat-en** /'i:tn/; **eat-ing**

1 : to take food into your mouth and swallow it [+ *obj*]

You'll feel better if you *eat* something. • I *ate* a big breakfast so I'm not very hungry. • Let's grab a bite to *eat*. = Let's get something to *eat*. • I've been trying *to watch what I eat* [=to be more careful about eating healthy foods and not eating too much] [no *obj*] I'm hungry. Let's *eat*. • They like to *eat* at home. • It's important to *eat right* [=to eat healthy foods] ✧ To *eat out* is to dine at a restaurant rather than at home. • We like to *eat out* on Fridays. ✧ To *eat in* is to dine at home. • Let's *eat in* tonight.

2 : to gradually destroy, use, or take away something : to wear something away [+ *obj*] — usually + *away* • The rocks were *eaten away* by erosion. [no *obj*] — usually + *into*, *away* at, or *at* • Marketing costs *ate into* their profits. • The acids were *eating away* at the metal finish. • The failure of his business has *eaten away* at his confidence.

3 [+ *obj*] *informal* : to bother or annoy (someone) • What's *eating* you?

be eating out of someone's hand : to be completely controlled by someone • He had them *eating out of his hand*. [=he controlled them completely]

eat a horse see **1** HORSE

eat crow (US) or eat humble pie informal : to admit that you were wrong or accept that you have been defeated • He was forced to *eat crow* when the company fired him. • They had to *eat humble pie* when the rumors they were spreading were proved false.

eat light see **5** LIGHT

eat (someone or something) alive **1 of insects** : to bite (someone or something) many times • The mosquitoes were *eating us alive*. [=we were being bitten frequently by many mosquitoes] **2** : to badly defeat or harm someone or something • Their competitors are going to *eat them alive* if they don't cut their prices. • If this story gets out, the press will *eat him alive*.

eat someone's or something's lunch see **1** LUNCH

eat up [phrasal verb] **1** — used to tell someone to start or continue eating • *Eat up!* Your dinner is getting cold. **2 eat up (something) or eat (something) up** **a** : to eat all of (something) • *Eat* your dinner *up* before it gets cold. **b** : to use up (time, resources, etc.) • This project has been *eating up* a large part of the budget. • Your savings may be *eaten up* by inflation. **3** ✧ A person who is *eaten up* with or by jealousy, bitterness, etc., cannot escape that feeling and is made unhappy by it. • He was *eaten up* with envy of his brother's success. **4 eat (something) up informal** : to enjoy (something) greatly • I thought the speech was stupid, but the audience *ate it up*.

eat up the clock see **1** CLOCK

eat your fill see **2** FILL

eat your heart out : to be jealous • "Eat your heart out," he jokingly told his friend before getting on his new boat.

eat your words : to take back what you have said : to admit that you were wrong about something • She said she would *eat her words* if the wedding was called off. • They promised success, but if things don't get better soon, they may have to *eat their words*.

have your cake and eat it too or have your cake and eat it see **1** CAKE

I'll eat my hat informal + old-fashioned — used to say that something will not happen or cannot be true • If he wins the election, *I'll eat my hat!* [=I don't believe he has any chance to win the election]

the proof of the pudding is in the eating see PUDDING

– **eat-able** /'i:rəbəl/ *adj* • an *eatable* [= (more commonly) *edible*] plant – **eat-er** *noun*, *pl* **-ers** [count] • a picky *eater* [=someone who dislikes many kinds of food] • a big *eater* [=someone who eats a lot]

synonyms EAT, CONSUME, and DEVOUR mean to chew and swallow food. EAT is a general word that can apply to any manner of taking in food. • *Eat* your dinner. CONSUME suggests completely eating something up so that none is left. • By noon they had *consumed* all of their food supplies. DEVOUR suggests eating quickly and greedily. • The hungry children *devoured* the grapes.

eat-ery /'i:təri/ *noun*, *pl* **-er-ies** [count] chiefly US, informal : a usually small and informal restaurant

eats /'i:ts/ *noun* [plural] informal : FOOD • cheap *eats* • good *eats*

eau de co-logne /,əudəkə'loun/ *noun*, *pl* **eaux de co-logne** or **eau de colognes** [count, noncount] : COLOGNE

eaves /'i:vz/ *noun* [plural] : the lower edge of a roof that sticks out past the wall — see picture at HOUSE

eaves-drop /'ivz,dro:p/ *verb* -drops; -dropped; -drop-ping [*no obj*] : to listen secretly to what other people are saying — usually + *on* • He was *eavesdropping* [=listening in] *on* his sister and her friends in the next room. • She was accused of *eavesdropping* *on* private telephone conversations.

— **eaves-drop-per** *noun*, *pl* -pers [*count*] — **eaves-dropping** *noun* [*noncount*] • electronic *eavesdropping*

¹**ebb** /'eb/ *noun*, *pl* ebbs [*count*]

1 : the time when the tide flows out from the land

2 : a low point or condition : a condition of weakness, failure, etc. • Morale seems to have reached its lowest *ebb*. — often used after *at* • Our spirits were *at* a low *ebb*. [=were very low] • His fortunes were *at* their lowest *ebb*.

ebb and flow — used to describe something that changes in a regular and repeated way • the *ebb and flow* of fashion • the *ebb and flow* of human history

²**ebb** *verb* ebbs; ebbed; ebb-ing [*no obj*]

1 of a tide : to flow outward from the land • waiting for the tide to *ebb*

2 : to get worse • Their fortunes had already begun to *ebb*. [=decline]

ebb tide *noun*, *pl* ~ tides [*count*]

1 : the tide while it is flowing outward from the land

2 : a low point or condition • the empire's *ebb tide*

¹**eb-o-ny** /'ebəni/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a hard, heavy wood that comes from tropical trees

²**ebony** *adj*

1 : made of or resembling ebony

2 : very dark or black • *ebony* skin

e-book /'i:buk/ *noun*, *pl* -books [*count*] : a book that is read on a computer or other electronic device

ebul-lient /'bʊljənt/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : lively and enthusiastic • her *ebullient* charm • an *ebullient* entertainer

— **ebul-lience** /'bʊljəns/ *noun* [*noncount*] • her delightful *ebullience* — **ebul-lient-ly** *adv* • speaking *ebulliently*

¹**ec-cen-tric** /'ɪk'sentrik/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]

1 **a** : tending to act in strange or unusual ways • He was a kind but *eccentric* man. • an *eccentric* inventor • She's become more *eccentric* over the years. **b** : strange or unusual • *eccentric* behavior/ideas • *eccentric* clothes

2 *technical* : not following a perfectly circular path • an *eccentric* orbit

— **ec-cen-tri-cal-ly** /'ɪk'sentrikəli/ *adv* • behaving *eccentrically*

²**eccentric** *noun*, *pl* -trics [*count*] : a person who acts in strange or unusual ways : an eccentric person • a wealthy *eccentric*

ec-cen-tric-i-ty /'ɛksən'trɪsəti/ *noun*, *pl* -ties

1 [*noncount*] : the quality of being strange or unusual in behavior • Some people weren't very tolerant of his *eccentricity*.

2 [*count*] : an act or habit that is strange or unusual • Talking to her plants is one of her many *eccentricities*.

ec-cle-si-as-tic /'ɪkli:zi'æstɪk/ *noun*, *pl* -tics [*count*] *formal* : a Christian priest or minister

ec-cle-si-as-ti-cal /'ɪkli:zi'æstɪkəl/ *also* **ecclesiastic** *adj* : of or relating to the Christian church or clergy • *ecclesiastical* history • civil or *ecclesiastical* authorities

ECG /'i:si:'dʒi:/ *noun*, *pl* ECGs [*count*] : EKG

ech-e-lon /'ɛʃə'lɑ:n/ *noun*, *pl* -lons [*count*] : a level in an organization : a level of authority or responsibility • the lower *echelons* of the bureaucracy • the industry's top *echelon* • We heard stories of corruption in the upper/higher *echelons* of the firm.

¹**echo** /'ekəʊ/ *noun*, *pl* ech-oes [*count*]

1 : a sound that is a copy of another sound and that is produced when sound waves bounce off a surface (such as a wall) • We shouted into the canyon and listened to the *echo* of our voices. • the *echo* of footsteps in the hall • faint *echoes*

2 **a** : something (such as a feature or quality) that repeats or resembles something else • His work contains *echoes* of older and greater poets. • The book's title is an *echo* of a line from an old folk song. **b** : something that is similar to something that happened or existed before • The crime is a chilling *echo* of the murders that shocked the city two years ago.

²**echo** *verb* echoes; ech-oed; echo-ing

1 [*no obj*] **a** : to be filled with sounds and especially with echoes • The stadium *echoed* [=resounded] with cheers. **b**

: to fill a space, area, etc., with sounds and especially with echoes • The music *echoed* through the church. • Laughter *echoed* across the lake. • Their voices *echoed* in/along the hall. — sometimes used figuratively • His words *echoed* in my head/ears. [=I kept thinking about what he had said]

2 [+ *obj*] : to repeat (what someone else has said or written) • His warnings are *echoed* by many other experts in the field. • "It's in Rome." "In Rome?" she *echoed*. • Others have *echoed* her criticisms.

3 [+ *obj*] **a** : to have a feature or quality that repeats or resembles (something else) • The book's title *echoes* a line from an old folk song. • The color of the sofa is *echoed* in the painting above it. = The painting *echoes* the color of the sofa. [=the color of the painting is like the color of the sofa] **b**

: to be similar to something that happened or existed before • The crime *echoes* last year's shocking murders.

éclair /'i'kleə/ *noun*, *pl* **éclairs** [*count*] : a type of long pastry that is filled with whipped cream or a sweet cream filling and usually topped with chocolate

eclec-tic /'i'klektɪk/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : including things taken from many different sources • The collection includes an *eclectic* mix of historical artifacts. • a person with *eclectic* tastes [=a person who likes many different kinds of things]

— **eclec-ti-cal-ly** /'i'klektɪkli/ *adv* • an *eclectically* decorated room — **eclec-ti-cism** /'i'klektə'sɪzəm/ *noun* [*noncount*] • the *eclecticism* of her tastes

¹**eclipse** /'i'klɪps/ *noun*, *pl* eclips-es

1 [*count*] **a** : an occasion when the sun looks like it is completely or partially covered with a dark circle because the moon is between the sun and the Earth • a total/partial solar *eclipse* • an *eclipse* of the sun **b** : an occasion when the moon looks like it is completely or partially covered with a dark circle because the Earth's shadow is on it • a total/partial lunar *eclipse*

2 : a loss of power, success, popularity, etc. [*singular*] the civilization's sudden/eventual *eclipse* • The popularity of television led to the *eclipse* of the radio drama. [*noncount*] an author who has fallen/gone *into eclipse* [=who has become much less popular] • an artist whose reputation/career has long been *in eclipse*

²**eclipse** *verb* eclipses; eclipsed; eclips-ing [+ *obj*]

1 : to cause an eclipse of (the sun or moon) • The sun was partially *eclipsed* by the moon.

2 **a** : to make (something) less important or popular • Train travel was *eclipsed* by the growth of commercial airlines. **b** : to do or be much better than (someone or something) • Her sister's accomplishments always seemed to *eclipse* [=out-shine] her own. • The new runner's time *eclipsed* [=surpassed] the old record.

eco- *combining form* : ecology : ecological • *eco-friendly* technologies [=technologies that do not harm the environment] • *eco-politics* [=politics that relate to ecology]

E. coli /'i:'kou,lai/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a kind of bacteria that is sometimes in food and water and that can make people sick

ecol-o-gy /'i'kɑ:lədʒi/ *noun*, *pl* -gies

1 [*noncount*] : a science that deals with the relationships between groups of living things and their environments • She studies plant/marine *ecology*.

2 [*count*] : the relationships between a group of living things and their environment — usually singular • the behavior and *ecology* of the great white shark • the fragile *ecology* of the desert = the fragile desert *ecology*

— **eco-log-i-cal** /'i:kə'lɑ:dʒɪkəl/ *adj* • the *ecological* consequences of water pollution • The organization promotes *ecological* awareness. — **eco-log-i-cal-ly** /'i:kə'lɑ:dʒɪkli/ *adv* • *ecologically* sound technologies • an *ecologically* stable environment — **ecol-o-gist** /'i'kɑ:lədʒɪst/ *noun*, *pl* -gists [*count*]

e-com-merce /'i:ka:məs/ *noun* [*noncount*] : activities that relate to the buying and selling of goods and services over the Internet

ec-o-nom-ic /'ɛkə'nɑ:mɪk/ *adj*

1 **a** : relating to an economy : relating to the process or system by which goods and services are produced, sold, and bought • a program to prevent inflation and *economic* collapse • the country's *economic* growth • the President's chief *economic* adviser **b** : relating to the science of economics • controversial *economic* theories

2 [*more* ~; *most* ~] : **ECONOMICAL** 1 • We're looking for a more *economic* way of doing business.

ec-o-nom-i-cal /'ɛkə'nɑ:mɪkəl/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]

1 : using money, resources, etc., carefully • an *economical* way to heat your house • a practical and *economical* solution to the problem • an *economical* cook [=a cook who does not waste food] • The author is often praised for her simple, *economical* writing style. [=a way of writing that uses only the

words that are most necessary] • We offer quality products at **economical prices** [=prices that many people can afford]

2 — used to describe a product that is not expensive to own and use • The company is making smaller, more **economical** cars. [=cars that do not use a lot of fuel]

ec·o·nom·i·cal·ly /ˌɛkəˈnɑːmɪkli/ *adv*

1 : in a way that relates to an economy • An increase in tourism will help the city **economically**. [=will help the city's economy] • an **economically** depressed area • **economically** disadvantaged people [=poor people]

2 : in an economical way • a way to **economically** heat your house • She writes simply and **economically**.

ec·o·nom·ics /ˌɛkəˈnɑːmɪks/ *noun*

1 [*noncount*] : a science concerned with the process or system by which goods and services are produced, sold, and bought • She studied **economics** before becoming a banker. • a professor of **economics** • **Economics** is my least favorite subject.

2 [*plural*] : the part of something that relates to money • the **economics** of buying a house [=the financial aspects of buying a house] • The **economics** of this agreement are complicated.

— see also HOME ECONOMICS

econ·o·mist /ɪˈkɑːnəˌmɪst/ *noun, pl -mists* [*count*] : a person who studies or specializes in economics (sense 1) • **Economists** are predicting rapid inflation.

econ·o·mize also *Brit econ·o·mise* /ɪˈkɑːnəˌmaɪz/ *verb*
-miz·es; -mized; -miz·ing : to use money, resources, etc., carefully [*no obj*] He was born into a wealthy family and never learned to **economize**. — often + *on* • We're finding new ways to **economize** [=save] *on* fuel. [+ *obj*] (*chiefly US*) • efforts to **economize** [=save] fuel/time

1 econ·o·my /ɪˈkɑːnəˌmi/ *noun, pl -mies*

1 [*count*] : the process or system by which goods and services are produced, sold, and bought in a country or region • The war altered the country's **economy**. • An increase in tourism will help the city's **economy**. • We currently have a strong/weak **economy**. [=many/few goods and services are being produced, sold, and bought] • the Mexican **economy** = Mexico's **economy** • the world/global **economy** • the region's fishing/information/retail **economy** • People are worried about (the state of) **the economy**. [=their country's economy] • changes in **the economy**

2 [*noncount*] : careful use of money, resources, etc. • We must learn to practice **economy**. • a writer known for her **economy** of language [=her careful use of language; her use of only the words that are most necessary] • cars with better **fuel economy** [=cars that use less fuel]

3 : something that makes it possible for you to spend less money [*count*] We'll also benefit from the **economies** provided by more efficient energy sources. • Mass production creates **economies of scale**. [=situations in which it costs less to produce something because you are producing a lot at one time] • Using cheap materials proved to be a **false economy**. [=it cost less at first but resulted in more money being spent later] [*noncount*] It would be **false economy** to repair the leak without replacing the pipe.

2 economy *adj, always used before a noun* : designed to cost less money • an **economy** car [=a car that costs less to buy, drive, maintain, etc.] • an **economy** class ticket [=the least expensive kind of airline ticket] — often used in combination • an **economy**-size bottle/bag/box [=a large bottle/bag/box that you buy for less money than it would cost to get the same amount in several smaller containers]

eco·sys·tem /iˈkəʊˌsɪstəm/ *noun, pl -tems* [*count*] : everything that exists in a particular environment ✧ An ecosystem includes living things, such as plants and animals, and things that are not living, such as rocks, soil, sunlight, and water. • the forest's **ecosystem**

eco·tour·ism /iˈkəʊˌtuəˌɪzəm/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the practice of traveling to beautiful natural places for pleasure in a way that does not damage the environment there

ecru /ˈɛkru/ *noun, pl ecrus* [*count, noncount*] : a pale color that is slightly yellow or brown

— **ecru** *adj*

ec·sta·sy /ˈɛkstəsi/ *noun, pl -sies*

1 : a state of very great happiness : extreme delight [*noncount*] shouts of pure/sheer **ecstasy** • shrieking with/in **ecstasy** [*count*] His performance sent the audience into **ecstasies**.

2 or Ecstasy [*noncount*] : an illegal drug that is used to produce a feeling of excitement and pleasure

ec·stat·ic /ɛkˈstætɪk/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] : very happy or

excited : feeling or showing ecstasy • He was **ecstatic** when he heard that he was going to be a father. • **ecstatic** applause

— **ec·stat·i·cal·ly** /ɛkˈstætɪkli/ *adv* • She was **ecstatically** happy.

ECT /iːˌsiːˈtiː/ *noun* [*noncount*] **medical** : SHOCK THERAPY

ec·u·men·i·cal /ɛkjəˈmenɪkəl/ *adj* : involving people from different kinds of Christian churches • an **ecumenical** council/service

— **ec·u·men·i·cal·ly** /ɛkjəˈmenɪkli/ *adv*

ec·ze·ma /ˈɛgzəmə/ *noun* [*noncount*] **medical** : a skin disease that causes areas of the skin to become red, rough, and itchy

ed /ˈɛd/ *noun* [*noncount*] **informal** : education • driver's **ed** [=classes or lessons that teach students to drive]

ed. *abbr* edited, edition, editor

-ed /əd, ɪd *after t or d; t after p, k, tʃ, f, θ, s, or ʃ; d elsewhere; exceptions are pronounced at their entries/ verb suffix or adj suffix*

1 — used to form the past tense and past participle of regular verbs • It **ended**. • It has **ended**. • **clapped** • **tried** • **patted**

2 : having : characterized by • **domed** • **cultured** • **two-legged** • **blue-eyed**

1 ed·dy /ˈɛdi/ *noun, pl ed·dies* [*count*] : a circular movement of air or water • The boat was caught in a powerful **eddy**.

2 eddy *verb ed·dies; ed·died; ed·dy·ing* [*no obj*] : to move in a circle : to form an eddy • The wind gusted and **eddyed** around us. • The waves swirled and **eddyed** against the pier.

Eden /iːdɪn/ *noun, pl Edens*

1 [*singular*] *in the Bible* : the garden where Adam and Eve first lived — called also *Garden of Eden*

2 a [*count*] : a very beautiful natural place • a tropical **Eden**

b [*singular*] : a place that is perfect for a particular activity or for a person who enjoys that activity : PARADISE • The new store is an **Eden** for book lovers.

1 edge /ˈɛdʒ/ *noun, pl edg·es* [*count*]

1 : the line or part where an object or area begins or ends • They peered over the **edge** of the roof. • The fabric was frayed at the **edge**. • He made us all nervous by standing so close to the **edge** of the cliff. • We sat at the water's **edge**. [=where the water touched the land] • She sat on the **edge** of the counter, swinging her legs.

2 a : the part of a blade that cuts • the **edge** of an ax • a razor's **edge** **b** : the sharpness of a blade • This knife has no **edge**. [=this knife is not sharp]

3 a : a harsh or unkind quality • His voice/comments had a sarcastic/sardonic **edge**. **b** : force or effectiveness • Her writing seem to have lost its **edge**. • These amendments will blunt the **edge** of the legislation.

4 : an advantage over others • Our experience gave us an/the **edge**. • You need to get/gain an **edge** on your competition. • The company still has/holds an **edge** over its competitors. • a competitive **edge** — see also CUTTING EDGE, LEADING EDGE

close to the edge or on the edge ✧ Someone who **lives (life) on the edge** or **lives close to the edge** often deals with dangerous situations and takes many risks. • He likes to **live on the edge**.

on edge : feeling nervous : not calm or relaxed • She was **on edge** [=edgy] before her exam. = Her nerves were **on edge** before her exam.

on the edge of : very close to (something) • a species **on the edge of extinction** • The company was teetering **on the edge of disaster/bankruptcy**. • They were poised **on the edge of success**. • He was **on the edge of** saying something when the phone rang.

on the edge of your seat ✧ If you are **on the edge of your seat**, you are watching or listening to something with great interest especially because you do not know what is going to happen. • It's a thrilling movie that keeps audiences **on the edge of their seats**.

on the ragged edge see RAGGED

over the edge : into a mental or emotional state that makes someone completely lose control • His friends worried that the news might send/drive/push him **over the edge**.

razor/razor's edge see RAZOR

set your teeth on edge see TOOTH

take the edge off : to make (something) weaker or less severe • a medication that **takes the edge off** the pain • A glass of milk will **take the edge off** your hunger/appetite. [=will make you feel less hungry]

— **edged** /ˈɛdʒd/ *adj* • an **edged** weapon [=a weapon with a

sharp edge, such as a sword or knife] — see also TWO-EDGED

²**edge** *verb* **edg-es; edged; edg-ing**

1 [+ *obj*] **a** : to give an edge to (something) • *Edge* the sleeve with lace. — usually used as (*be*) *edged* • The sleeve was *edged* with/in lace. [=it had a lace edge] **b** : to be on the edge of (something) • Trees *edge* the lake. — usually used as (*be*) *edged* • The garden is *edged* [=fringed, bordered] with/in/by flowers.

2 *always followed by an adverb or preposition* : to move slowly or with small movements in a specified direction [no *obj*] She *edged* away from him. • Gasoline prices have been *edg-ing* upward. [+ *obj*] I *edged* my chair closer to the table.

3 [+ *obj*] : to defeat (someone) by a small amount • (*chiefly* US) He was *edged* in the semifinals by the defending champion. — usually + *out* • He was *edged out* in the semifinals. • She barely/narrowly *edged out* her opponent.

edge out [*phrasal verb*] *edge* (someone or something) out or *edge out* (someone or something) : to slowly become more successful, popular, etc., than (someone or something) • The company is gradually *edging out* the competition. • Efficiency has *edged out* price as the top reason people give for buying the car. — see also ²EDGE 3 (above)

edge-wise (US) /'edʒwaɪz/ or *chiefly* Brit **edge-ways** /'edʒweɪz/ *adv* : SIDEWAYS ♦ If you can't *get a word in edgewise* it means that someone else is talking so much that you are not able to say anything. • I wanted to explain what had happened but I couldn't *get a word in edgewise*.

edg-ing /'edʒɪŋ/ *noun, pl -ings* : something that forms an edge or border [count] sleeves with lace *edgings* [noncount] sleeves with lace *edging*

edgy /'edʒi/ *adj* **edg-i-er; -est** [also more ~; most ~]

1 : nervous and tense • Too much coffee makes me *edgy*. • Why are you so *edgy*? • People are starting to get *edgy* [=on edge] about rising prices.

2 : having or showing a harsh or unkind quality • *edgy* humor • an *edgy* scene/situation • Their relationship has always been *edgy*.

3 : new and unusual in a way that is likely to make some people uncomfortable • one of the director's *edgier* films • an *edgy* artist

— **edg-i-ly** /'edʒəli/ *adv* • *edgily* funny — **edg-i-ness** /'edʒɪnəs/ *noun* [noncount] the excitement and *edginess* in the artist's work [singular] There was an *edginess* [=a harsh quality] in her voice.

ed-i-ble /'edəbəl/ *adj* : suitable or safe to eat • *edible* fruit • a plant with *edible* leaves • All of the decorations on the gingerbread house were *edible*. — opposite INEDIBLE

— **ed-i-bil-i-ty** /,edə'bɪləti/ *noun* [noncount] — **edibles** *noun* [plural] *informal* • cheese, crackers, and other *edibles*

edict /'iːdɪkt/ *noun, pl edicts* [count] : an official order given by a person with power or by a government : DECREE • The government issued an *edict* banning public demonstrations. • a royal/religious *edict*

ed-i-fice /'edəfəs/ *noun, pl -fic-es* [count] : a large and usually impressive building (such as a church or government building) • a magnificent *edifice* with a domed ceiling

ed-i-fy /'edəfaɪ/ *verb -fies; -fied; -fy-ing* [+ *obj*] : to teach (someone) in a way that improves the mind or character • These books will both entertain and *edify* readers.

— **ed-i-fi-ca-tion** /,edəfə'keɪʃən/ *noun* [noncount] • books that provide both entertainment and *edification* — **edifying** *adj* [more ~; most ~] • an *edifying* sermon/experience • The books are both entertaining and *edifying*.

ed-it /'edət/ *verb* **ed-its; ed-it-ed; ed-it-ing** [+ *obj*]

1 a : to prepare (something written) to be published or used : to make changes, correct mistakes, etc., in (something written) • *edit* a poem • This chapter needs to be *edited*. • The book was poorly *edited*. • The stories have been *edited* for a younger audience. • Students learn to *edit* their essays for grammar and punctuation. **b** : to prepare (a film, recording, photo, etc.) to be seen or heard : to change, move, or remove parts of (a film, recording, photo, etc.) • The software allows you to *edit* videos on your computer. • This film has been *edited* for television.

2 : to be in charge of the publication of (something) • *edit* a magazine/daily newspaper • an anthology of ancient poetry *edited* by a local professor

edit out [*phrasal verb*] *edit out* (something) or *edit* (something) out : to remove (something, such as an unwanted word or scene) while preparing something to be seen, used, published, etc. • They *edited out* the scene. • Write freely.

You can always *edit* things out later.

edit yourself : to change what you were going to say or would normally say • I feel like I have to *edit myself* when I talk to them. • "I never saw it," she said before quickly *editing herself*, "or at least I don't remember seeing it."

— **editing** *noun* [noncount] • The *editing* was done poorly. • *editing* techniques

edi-tion /'ɪdɪʃən/ *noun, pl edi-tions* [count]

1 a : a particular version of a book • an illustrated *edition* [=a version that has pictures] • a hardcover/paperback *edition* **b** : a particular version of a product • the latest *edition* of the software

2 : all the copies of a book that are printed or published at one time • The errors were corrected in the book's second *edition*. — see also FIRST EDITION, LIMITED EDITION

3 : one of the several versions of a newspaper that are printed for a single day • the late *edition* • the city *edition*

4 : something that is presented as one of a series • the most recent *edition* of the city's film festival • tonight's *edition* [=episode] of the show

ed-i-tor /'edətə/ *noun, pl -tors* [count]

1 : a person whose job is to edit something • the *editor* of the city paper • working as a film *editor* • the fiction *editor* of a magazine [=the person who decides what fiction pieces get published]

2 : a computer program that is used to create and make changes to data (such as words or pictures) • a text *editor*

— **ed-i-tor-ship** /'edətə'ʃɪp/ *noun* [noncount] • The magazine has done well under her *editorship*.

¹**ed-i-to-ri-al** /,edə'tɔriəl/ *adj* : of or relating to an editor • *editorial* offices • He got an *editorial* job at the newspaper.

— **ed-i-to-ri-al-ly** *adv*

²**editorial** *noun, pl -als* [count] : an essay in a newspaper or magazine that gives the opinions of its editors or publishers • The paper published an *editorial* strongly criticizing the mayor's actions. — called also (*Brit*) *leader*, (*Brit*) *leading article*

editor in chief *noun, pl editors in chief* [count] : a person whose job is to be in charge of a group of editors • the magazine's *editor in chief* = the *editor in chief* of the magazine

ed-u-cate /'edʒə,keɪt/ *verb -cates; -cat-ed; -cat-ing*

1 : to teach (someone) especially in a school, college, or university [+ *obj*] Parents trust schools to *educate* their children. — often used as (*be*) *educated* • She was *educated* at private schools. [no *obj*] The job of our public schools is to *educate*.

2 [+ *obj*] : to give (someone) information about something : to train (someone) to do something • It takes time to *educate* [=train] new workers on how to use the machines. • We need to *educate* [=inform] the public about this dangerous disease. — sometimes followed by *to* + *verb* • *educating* consumers *to use* these products more effectively

educated *adj* [more ~; most ~]

1 a : having an education and especially a good education • These companies want an *educated* work force. • an *educated* woman with an impressive career — opposite UNEDUCATED **b** : having a particular kind of education • He is poorly/well *educated*. — sometimes used in combination • college-*educated* people • a Harvard-*educated* economist — see also SELF-EDUCATED

2 : showing education (sense 1b) • *educated* speech/tastes — opposite UNEDUCATED; see also *educated* guess at ²GUESS

ed-u-ca-tion /,edʒə'keɪʃən/ *noun, pl -tions*

1 a [noncount] : the action or process of teaching someone especially in a school, college, or university • The school is devoted to the *education* of children with reading difficulties. — see also ADULT EDUCATION, HIGHER EDUCATION, PHYSICAL EDUCATION **b** : the knowledge, skill, and understanding that you get from attending a school, college, or university [count] a college *education* • She received her *education* at private schools. • The applicants had comparable *educations*. [noncount] He had little formal *education*. [=schooling]

2 [noncount] : a field of study that deals with the methods and problems of teaching • She earned her master's degree in *education*. • a school of *education*

ed-u-ca-tion-al /,edʒə'keɪʃənəl/ *adj*

1 : having to do with education • *educational* theorists • a leading *educational* institution

2 [more ~; most ~] : teaching something • an *educational* film • *educational* television • Our vacation turned out to be a very *educational* experience.

ed-u-ca-tion-ist /ˌɛdʒəˈkeɪʃənɪst/ or **ed-u-ca-tion-al-ist** /ˌɛdʒəˈkeɪʃənəlɪst/ *noun*, *pl* **-ists** [count] *Brit* : EDUCATOR

ed-u-ca-tor /ˌɛdʒəˈkeɪtər/ *noun*, *pl* **-tors** [count] *chiefly US* : a person (such as a teacher or a school administrator) who has a job in the field of education • The conference will attract many leading scholars and *educators*.

ed-u-tain-ment /ˌɛdʒəˈteɪnmənt/ *noun* [noncount] : entertainment (such as through games, films, or shows) that is designed to teach something

-ee /i/ *noun suffix*

1 : a person who gets or is affected by a specified action or thing • *appointee* • *trainee*

2 : a person who does a specified action • *escapee* • *standee*

EEG /iːˈiːˈdʒiː/ *noun*, *pl* **EEGs** [count] *medical*

1 : a printed recording of the brain's electrical activity made by a special machine — called also *electroencephalogram*

2 : a machine that detects and records the electrical activity of the brain — called also *electroencephalograph*

eek /iːk/ *interj* — used to express surprise and fear • *Eek!* There's a mouse in the cupboard!

eel /iːl/ *noun*, *pl* **eels** [count] : a long fish that looks like a snake and has smooth slippery skin — see color picture on page C8

— **eel-like** /iːlˌlɑːk/ *adj*

-eer /iə/ *noun suffix* : a person who is connected with or who operates or produces something • *auctioneer* • *puppeteer*

ee-rie /iːri/ *adj* **ee-ri-er**; **-est** [or more ~; most ~] : strange and mysterious • a coyote's *eerie* howl • The flames cast an *eerie* glow. • a land of *eerie* beauty • an *eerie* coincidence

— **ee-ri-ly** /iːrɪli/ *adv* • The two towns are *eerily* similar.

— **ee-ri-ness** /iːrɪnəs/ *noun* [noncount] the *eeriness* of the coyote's howl [singular] There is an *eeriness* about that coincidence.

ef-face /ɪˈfeɪs/ *verb* **-fac-es**; **-faced**; **-fac-ing** [+ *obj*] *formal* : to cause (something) to fade or disappear • coins with dates *effaced* by wear • a memory *effaced* by time — see also SELF-EFFACING

— **ef-face-ment** /ɪˈfeɪsmənt/ *noun* [noncount]

¹ef-fect /ɪˈfekt/ *noun*, *pl* **-fects**

1 : a change that results when something is done or happens : an event, condition, or state of affairs that is produced by a cause [count] The defeat had a terrible *effect* [=impact] on the team's spirits. • He now needs more of the drug to achieve/get/produce the same *effect*. • The experience has had a bad/adverse/negative *effect* on him. • a good/beneficial/positive *effect* • Computers have had a profound/significant *effect* on our lives. • The *effects* of the drug soon wore off. • He was able to stop taking the drug with no *ill effects*. [=with nothing bad happening] • This treatment causes fewer *ill effects*. [noncount] The change in policy had little *effect* on most people. • the *effect* [=influence] of climate on growth • He was able to stop taking the drug without *ill effect*. ♦ If something *has an effect on* something or someone, it changes or influences that thing or person in some way. • The new regulations may *have an effect on* small businesses. • It could *have effects on* other businesses as well. — see also DOMINO EFFECT, GREENHOUSE EFFECT, RIPPLE EFFECT, SIDE EFFECT, SNOWBALL EFFECT, placebo effect at PLACEBO

2 [count] : a particular feeling or mood created by something • The total *effect* of the painting was one of gloom. • The color gives the *effect* of being warm. • He achieves/gets amazing *effects* with wood. ♦ Something that is done *for effect* is done in a deliberate way to produce a particular feeling or reaction. • Her tears were only *for effect*. [=she was crying or pretending to cry to make people feel sympathy for her] • The movie exaggerates his odd habits *for comic/humorous effect*. • Before making the announcement, he paused *for dramatic effect*. [=he paused to make the announcement more dramatic]

3 [count] : an image or a sound that is created in television, radio, or movies to imitate something real : SPECIAL EFFECT — usually plural • Computers are essential now in creating *effects* for the movies. • sound *effects* • visual *effects*

4 [noncount] : the state of something that is actually working or operating • The policy will be in *effect* next year. ♦ If a law or something like a law *takes effect*, *comes into effect*, or *goes into effect*, it begins to work or to be enforced. • The law *went/came into effect* today. • The new regulations will *take effect* next year. ♦ If a drug or something like a drug *takes effect*, it begins to produce the results it is meant to produce. • The medication should *take effect* half an hour after you take the pills. ♦ To *give effect to* something or to

carry/bring/put something into effect is to make it begin doing what it was intended to do. • The court refused to *give effect to* that part of the document. • The company has not yet *carried these plans into effect*. [=the company has not yet acted on these plans] • The new regulations will be *put into effect* next year.

5 **effects** [plural] : personal property or possessions • *household effects* • Pick up your (personal) *effects* before you leave. **in effect** — used to say that one thing has the same effect or result as something else • The suggestion was *in effect* an order.

to good effect ♦ If you use something *to good/great/fine/outstanding (etc.) effect*, you use it in a way that produces good results. • The city has used these resources *to good effect*. • These changes have been implemented *to great effect*.

to little/no effect ♦ If something is done *to little effect* or *to no effect*, it produces little or no change. • His doctors have repeatedly adjusted his medication *to little effect*.

to that effect or to the effect that — used to indicate that the meaning of words is roughly correct even if the words themselves are not completely accurate • He said more time was needed to reach a decision, or words *to that effect*. = He said something *to the effect that* more time was needed to reach a decision.

²effect *verb* **-fects**; **-fect-ed**; **-fect-ing** [+ *obj*] *formal*

1 : to cause (something) : to make (something) happen • The president could not *effect* [=bring about] a change in policy. • They are trying to *effect* a settlement of the dispute.

2 : to cause (something) to produce the desired result • The duty of the legislature is to *effect* the will of the people.

usage see AFFECT

ef-fec-tive /ɪˈfektɪv/ *adj*

1 [more ~; most ~] : producing a result that is wanted : having an intended effect • drugs *effective* in the treatment of a disease = drugs *effective* in treating a disease = drugs *effective* against a disease • It's a simple but *effective* technique. • He gave an *effective* speech. — opposite INEFFECTIVE

2 of a law, rule, etc. : in use : ACTIVE • The law becomes *effective* [=the law takes effect; the law will start to be used] next year. • the *effective date* of the law [=the day when the law starts to be used]

3 : starting at a particular time — used to introduce a clause • *Effective* [=starting, as of] tomorrow, the store will be open until 8:00 p.m. every day. • *Effective* next month, the landfill will no longer accept old televisions.

4 *always used before a noun* — used to describe something that exists or has an effect but that is not officially stated or recognized • the *effective tax rate* • The army has taken *effective* control of the city.

— **ef-fec-tive-ness** *noun* [noncount] • The *effectiveness* of the drug was questioned.

ef-fec-tive-ly /ɪˈfektɪvli/ *adv* [more ~; most ~]

1 : in a way that produces a desired result : in an effective manner • Try to communicate your ideas *more effectively*.

2 : in an indirect way — used to say that one thing has the same effect or result as something else • By turning down the permit they *effectively* [=in effect, for all practical purposes] ended the housing plans.

ef-fec-tu-al /ɪˈfektʃəwəl/ *adj* [more ~; most ~] *formal* : producing a desired result or effect • an *effectual* [=effective] remedy — opposite INEFFECTUAL

— **ef-fec-tu-al-ly** /ɪˈfektʃəwəli/ *adv* • The law would *effectually* bar new development in the neighborhood.

ef-fem-i-nate /ɪˈfɛmənət/ *adj* [more ~; most ~] : having or showing qualities that are considered more suited to women than to men : not manly • an *effeminate* manner • He had a high and somewhat *effeminate* voice.

— **ef-fem-i-na-cy** /ɪˈfɛmənəsi/ *noun* [noncount] — **ef-fem-i-nate-ly** *adv* • dressed *effeminately*

ef-fer-ves-cence /ɪˈfɛʃvəsns/ *noun* [noncount]

1 : an exciting or lively quality • The actress's *effervescence* was charming. • the *effervescence* of his writing style

2 : bubbles that form and rise in a liquid

— **ef-fer-ves-cent** /ɪˈfɛʃvəsnt/ *adj* [more ~; most ~] • her *effervescent* [=bubbly] personality • an *effervescent* drink

— **ef-fer-ves-cent-ly** *adv*

ef-fete /ɪˈfiːt/ *adj* [more ~; most ~] *disapproving*

1 : lacking strength, courage, or spirit • *effete* intellectuals • *effete* members of the aristocracy

2 : resembling a woman : EFFEMINATE • an *effete* young man

ef-fi-ca-cious /ɪˈfɛkɪəs/ *adj* [more ~; most ~] *formal*

: having the power to produce a desired result or effect : **EFFECTIVE** • an *efficacious* remedy

– **ef-fi-ca-cious-ly** *adv* – **ef-fi-ca-cious-ness** *noun* [noncount]

ef-fi-ca-cy /'efikəsi/ *noun* [noncount] *formal* : the power to produce a desired result or effect • The *efficacy* [=effectiveness] of this treatment has not yet been proved.

ef-fi-cien-cy /'fɪfənsi/ *noun*, *pl* -cies

1 : the ability to do something or produce something without wasting materials, time, or energy : the quality or degree of being efficient [noncount] Because of her *efficiency*, we got all the work done in a few hours. • The factory was operating at peak *efficiency*. • a car with greater fuel *efficiency* [=a car that uses fuel more efficiently] • A furnace with 80 percent fuel *efficiency* wastes 20 percent of its fuel. [plural] (technical) • The company is trying to lower costs and improve *efficiencies*.

2 [count] **US** : EFFICIENCY APARTMENT

efficiency apartment *noun*, *pl* ~-ments [count] **US** : a small apartment that usually includes furniture and has a small and simple kitchen area

ef-fi-cient /'fɪfənt/ *adj* [more ~; most ~] : capable of producing desired results without wasting materials, time, or energy • an *efficient* worker • *efficient* machinery

– **ef-fi-cient-ly** *adv* • learning to work more *efficiently*

ef-fi-gy /'efəʒi/ *noun*, *pl* -gies [count] : an image of a person ♦ An *effigy* is often a large doll made to look like someone who is disliked or hated. • The governor was *hanged/burned in effigy* by a mob of protesters. [=a large doll that looked like the governor was hanged or burned by the mob]

ef-flu-ent /'e,flu:wənt/ *noun*, *pl* -ents *formal* : liquid (such as sewage or industrial chemicals) that is released as waste [noncount] The factory has been accused of discharging *effluent* into the river. [count] industrial *effluents*

ef-fort /'efət/ *noun*, *pl* -forts

1 : work done by the mind or body : energy used to do something [noncount] He put a lot of *effort* into finishing the project on time. • It wasn't easy, but it was worth the *effort*. • We need to expend more/extra *effort*. • The job will require/take a great deal of time and *effort*. • a lack of *effort* • She seems to do everything *without effort*. [=effortlessly; very easily] [count] Our success is due to the combined/concerted *efforts* of many people. • Her *efforts* were rewarded with a new contract. • He lost the campaign despite the best *efforts* of his supporters. ♦ If you get an *A for effort* or an *E for effort* or (Brit) *full marks for effort*, you are given credit for working hard to do something, even though the result of the work was not successful. • His novel's surprise ending is not really convincing, but we'll give him an *A for effort*.

2 [count] : a serious attempt to do something • Even though they didn't win, the team made a good/valiant *effort*. • a determined/desperate *effort* • a last-ditch *effort* • Her early *efforts* at writing a novel were awkward. • The project is a *team effort*. [=is being done by a group of people] • Despite my *best efforts*, I never found out who she was. — often followed by *to* + *verb* • He made no *effort to hide* his feelings. [=he showed his feelings openly] • In an *effort to avoid* further delays, the delivery process has been simplified. • I had to make a conscious/deliberate *effort not to laugh*. • The school *makes every effort* [=the school does all that it can] *to help* new students become adjusted to college life.

3 [count] : something produced by work • This painting was one of my best *efforts*. • It wasn't bad for a first *effort*.

4 [singular] : something that is hard to do • I was so tired this morning that it was an *effort* (for me) to get out of bed.

5 [noncount] : all that is being done to achieve a particular goal • He wanted to contribute in some way to the *war effort*. [=to the effort to win the war]

ef-fort-less /'efətləs/ *adj* [more ~; most ~] : showing or needing little or no effort : appearing very easy • She walked with *effortless* grace. • His writing is known for its seemingly *effortless* style. ♦ *Effortless* usually describes something that appears to be easy because of the skill of the person who is doing it. • The skier made a series of *effortless* turns.

– **ef-fort-less-ly** *adv* • gliding *effortlessly* across the ice

– **ef-fort-less-ness** *noun* [noncount]

ef-fron-tery /'frʌntəri/ *noun* [noncount] *formal* : a very confident attitude or way of behaving that is shocking or rude : **NERVE** ♦ *Effrontery* describes the attitude of a person who does something very boldly and without shame even though it is wrong or offensive in some way. • He had the *effrontery* to deny doing something that we saw him do.

ef-fu-sion /'fju:ʒən/ *noun*, *pl* -sions

1 [count] *formal* : something that is said or expressed too much or with a lot of emotion • Her poetic *effusions* became tiresome.

2 [count, noncount] *technical* : a flow of liquid or gas

ef-fu-sive /'fju:sɪv/ *adj* [more ~; most ~] : expressing a lot of emotion • They offered *effusive* thanks for our help. • He was *effusive* in praising their work. = He gave their work *effusive* praise. • an *effusive* welcome

– **ef-fu-sive-ly** *adv* • praising their work *effusively* – **ef-fu-sive-ness** *noun* [noncount]

EFL /i:ˈefl/ *noun* [noncount] : the teaching of English as a foreign language

e.g. *abbr* for example • products imported from many countries, *e.g.*, France, Germany, and Japan ♦ The abbreviation *e.g.* comes from the Latin phrase “*exempli gratia*,” which means “for example.”

egal-i-tar-i-an /ɪˌgæləˈterɪjən/ *adj* [more ~; most ~] *formal* : aiming for equal wealth, status, etc., for all people • *egalitarian* policies for the redistribution of wealth

– **egalitarian** *noun*, *pl* -ans [count] • He is a committed *egalitarian*. – **egal-i-tar-i-an-ism** /ɪˌgæləˈterɪjənɪzəm/ *noun* [noncount]

egg /'eg/ *noun*, *pl* eggs

1 [count] : a hard-shelled oval thing from which a young bird is born • The *egg* will hatch about 10 days after it is laid.; *also* : an oval or round thing from which a snake, frog, insect, etc., is born

2 : the egg of a bird (especially a chicken) eaten as food [count] poached/fried/boiled *eggs* • hard-boiled/soft-boiled *eggs* • the smell of rotten *eggs* • (US) scrambled *eggs* • I bought a carton of *eggs*. • (US) They served us *bacon and eggs* for breakfast. = (Brit) They served us *eggs and bacon* for breakfast. • an *Easter egg* [=an egg that is specially decorated at Easter] [noncount] (Brit) scrambled *egg* • a batter made from flour and *egg* • *egg white(s)/yolk*

3 [count] *biology* : a cell that is produced by the female sexual organs and that combines with the male's sperm in reproduction • The *egg* is fertilized by the sperm. — called also *ovum*

4 [count] : something that is shaped like a bird's egg • a chocolate *egg*

bad egg *informal* + somewhat old-fashioned : someone who does bad things • He was dishonest, but he was the only *bad egg* in the group.

curate's egg *see* CURATE

egg on your face ♦ If you have *egg on your face* you appear foolish, usually because something that you said would happen has not happened. • The unexpected election result left a lot of journalists with *egg on their faces*.

good egg *informal* + somewhat old-fashioned : a likeable person • I've known Jim for years. He's a *good egg*.

lay an egg **US, informal** : to fail completely : to fail in a very obvious or embarrassing way • He used to be a very popular star, but his last two movies have *laid an egg*.

put all your eggs in one basket ♦ If you *put all your eggs in one basket*, you risk all you have on the success or failure of one thing (such as an investment), so that if something goes wrong you could lose everything. • Investors should diversify their investments instead of *putting all their eggs in one basket*. [=instead of investing all their money in one company or one kind of company]

the goose that lays the golden egg *see* ¹GOOSE

walk on eggs *see* ¹WALK

– *see also* NEST EGG

egg *verb* eggs; egged; egg-ing

egg on [*phrasal verb*] **egg (someone) on** : to urge or encourage (someone) to do something that is usually foolish or dangerous • He continued to take off his clothes while the crowd *egged him on*.

eggbeater *noun*, *pl* -ers [count] : a tool that is used by cooks to mix eggs very thoroughly

egg-cup /'eg,kʌp/ *noun*, *pl* -cups [count] : a cup-shaped device which holds an egg that is being eaten

egg-head /'eg,hed/ *noun*, *pl* -heads [count] *informal* + usually disapproving : a highly educated person who may not know much about real life • He dismissed all scientists as a bunch of *eggheads*.

– **egg-head-ed** /'eg,hedəd/ *adj* [more ~; most ~] *informal* • *eggheaded* scientists

egg-nog /'eg,nɔ:g/ *noun*, *pl* -nogs [count, noncount] : a drink made of eggs beaten with sugar, milk or cream, and of-

ten alcoholic liquor ✧ Eggnog is a traditional drink at Christmastime.

egg-plant /'eg,plænt/ *noun, pl -plants* [count, noncount] chiefly US : a somewhat egg-shaped vegetable with usually purple skin — called also (Brit) *aubergine*; see color picture on page C4

egg roll *noun, pl ~ rolls* [count] US : a very thin flat piece of dough that is wrapped around a mixture of chopped vegetables and often meat and then usually fried — called also *spring roll* ✧ Egg rolls are served in Chinese restaurants.

egg-shell /'eg,ʃel/ *noun, pl -shells* [count] : the hard outside part of an egg : the shell of an egg

walk on eggshells see ¹WALK

ego /'i:gou/ *noun, pl egos* [count]

1 : the opinion that you have about yourself • Winning was good for our *egos*. = Winning boosted our *egos*. [=winning made us proud of ourselves] • He has a big/inflated/enormous *ego*. [=he has an overly high opinion of himself] • She has a fragile *ego*. [=she lacks confidence in herself] • a bruised *ego* [=a feeling that you are not as important as you thought you were] • a healthy/strong *ego*

2 *psychology* : a part of the mind that senses and adapts to the real world — compare ID, SUPEREGO

massage your ego see ²MASSAGE

— see also ALTER EGO

ego-cen-tric /,i:gou'sentrik/ *adj* [more ~; most ~] : caring too much about yourself and not about other people : SELF-CENTERED • an *egocentric* movie actor

ego-ism /'i:gə,wizəm/ *noun* [noncount] : EGOTISM

— **ego-ist** /'i:gə,wist/ *noun, pl -ists* [count] — **ego-is-tic** /,i:gə'wistik/ *adj* [more ~; most ~]

ego-ma-ni-ac /,i:gou'meni,æk/ *noun, pl -acs* [count] : someone who does not care about other people and thinks that their problems and concerns are not important : a very egotistical person • an insufferable *egomaniac*

— **ego-ma-nia** *noun* [noncount]

ego-tism /'i:gə,tizəm/ *noun* [noncount] : the feeling or belief that you are better, more important, more talented, etc., than other people : CONCEIT • In his *egotism* he thought everyone was coming just to see him.

— **ego-tist** /'i:gə,tist/ *noun, pl ego-tists* [count] • a selfish *egotist* — **ego-tis-tic** /,i:gə'tistik/ or **ego-tis-ti-cal** /,i:gə'tistikəl/ *adj* [more ~; most ~] • an *egotistical* person • She had an *egotistic* obsession with her looks. — **ego-tis-ti-cal-ly** /,i:gə'tistikəli/ *adv*

ego trip *noun, pl ~ trips* [count] *informal* : something that someone does to feel more important or better than other people • He's on a self-indulgent *ego trip* with his latest movie, which he wrote, directed, and starred in himself.

egre-gious /'i:grɪ:ʒəs/ *adj* [more ~; most ~] *formal* : very bad and easily noticed • The article contains a number of *egregious* [=glaring, obvious] errors. • an *egregious* example of political bias • *egregious* misconduct

— **egre-gious-ly** *adv* — **egre-gious-ness** *noun* [noncount]

egress /'i:gres/ *noun* [noncount] *formal* : a way to get out of a place or the act of leaving a place : EXIT • The auditorium is designed to provide easy *egress* in an emergency. — compare INGRESS

egret /'i:grət/ *noun, pl egrets* [count] : a large, long-legged bird that has a long neck and bill and usually white feathers

Egyp-tian /'i:ʒɪpʃən/ *noun, pl -tians*

1 [count] : a person born or living in Egypt

2 [noncount] : the language spoken by ancient Egyptians

— **Egyptian** *adj* • *Egyptian* culture

eh /'ei/ *interj*

1 — used to ask someone to repeat something • “He's only three feet tall!” “*Eh?* How's that again?” [=please repeat what you said because it seems wrong]

2 — used to urge someone to agree • Let's have another drink, *eh?* ✧ This use of *eh* occurs especially in British and Canadian English.

ei-der-down /'aɪdə,daʊn/ *noun, pl -downs*

1 [noncount] : soft feathers that come from ducks and that are used in warm clothing and bed covers

2 [count] : a bed cover made with eiderdown

eight /'eɪt/ *noun, pl eights*

1 [count] : the number 8

2 [count] : the eighth in a set or series • the *eight* of hearts

3 [noncount] : eight o'clock • Dinner is at *eight*. • He's working until *eight*.

— **eight** *adj* • *eight* cars — **eight** *pronoun* • *Eight* (of them) passed the test.

eight ball *noun, pl ~ balls* [count] : a black ball that is numbered 8 in the game of pool

behind the eight ball *informal* : in a bad position • The loss of this contract puts the company *behind the eight ball*.

eigh-teen /,eɪ'ti:n/ *noun, pl -teens* [count] : the number 18

— **eighteen** *adj* • *eighteen* years — **eighteen** *pronoun* • *Eighteen* (of them) were present. — **eigh-teenth** /,eɪ'ti:nθ/

noun, pl -teenths [count] • one *eighteenth* of the total

— **eighteenth** *adj* • the *eighteenth* day — **eighteenth** *adv* •

He finished *eighteenth* in the race.

eight-fold /'eɪt,fould/ *adj* : eight times as great or as many •

There has been an *eightfold* increase in membership in the past year.

— **eight-fold** /'eɪt'fould/ *adv* • Membership has increased *eightfold*.

¹eighth /'eɪtθ/ *noun, pl eighths*

1 [singular] : number eight in a series • My appointment is on the *eighth* (of the month).

2 [count] : one of eight equal parts of something • one *eighth* of the pie • An *eighth* of a pound is two ounces.

²eighth *adj* : occupying the number eight position in a series • the *eighth* car in line • the *eighth* edition • Her son is in (the) *eighth* grade.

— **eighth** *adv* • She finished *eighth* (in the race).

eighth note *noun, pl ~ notes* [count] *music* : a musical note that lasts to 1/8 of the length of a whole note — called also (Brit) *quaver*

800 number /,eɪt'hʌndrəd-/ *noun, pl ~ -bers* [count] US : a telephone number that people can use to call a distant place (such as a business) for free ✧ In the U.S. 800 numbers usually have 800 as an area code. • Call our *800 number* to place an order or ask questions.

eighty /'eɪti/ *noun, pl eighty-ies*

1 [count] : the number 80

2 *eighties* [plural] **a** : the numbers ranging from 80 to 89 • The temperature rose to the high *eighties*. **b** : a set of years ending in digits ranging from 80 to 89 • She is in her mid-*eighties*. • a television show from the (nineteen) *eighties* [=from 1980–1989]

— **eight-i-eth** /'eɪtɪəθ/ *noun, pl -eths* [count] • one *eightieth* of the total — **eightieth** *adj* • the *eightieth* day — **eighty** *adj* • *eighty* days — **eighty** *pronoun* • *Eighty* (of them) were rejected.

¹ei-ther /'i:ðə, Brit 'aɪðə/ *adj*

1 : one and the other of two • Flowers bloomed on *either* side [=on both sides] of the walk. • *Either* [=each] answer is correct. [=both answers are correct] • I don't like *either* book. [=I like neither book] • French and English are closer to each other than *either* language is to Chinese. • I haven't written to *either* parent. [=I haven't written to the mother or the father]

2 : one or the other of two • You may take *either* road. • You may choose *either* answer. • *Either* way/option is all right with me. • It's all right with me *either way*. = I don't mind *either way*. = *Either way*, I don't mind. [=both possibilities are okay to me]

²either *pronoun* : the one or the other • *Either* (of the two answers) is correct. [=both answers are correct] • I don't think that *either* of the two answers is correct. = Of the two answers, I don't think that *either* is correct. • I don't like *either* of the answers. [=I like neither of the answers] • I haven't written to *either* of my parents. • French and English are closer to each other than *either* (of the two languages) is to Chinese.

usage According to the rules of grammar, the pronoun *either* is singular and requires a singular verb. • *Either* is correct. However, in informal writing and speech, a plural verb is common when *either* is followed by *of*. • *Either of the answers is/are correct*. • This was not something that *either of them* was/were happy about.

³either *conj* — used with *or* to indicate choices or possibilities

• You can *either go or stay*. • I can't remember her name. It's *either Marie or Mary*. • He will give the money *either* to his son *or* his daughter. = He will give the money to *either* his son *or* his daughter. • A statement is *either* true *or* false. [=no statement is both true and false] • They can *either* be black, brown, *or* blue. = They can be *either* black, brown, *or* blue. ✧ When *either* and *or* are used to join two subjects in a sentence, the verb should agree with the subject that is closer to it. • *Either* the professor *or* the students are wrong. • *Either* you *or* I am wrong.

⁴**either** *adv* : in addition — used after a negative statement • The cars are reliable and are not expensive *either*. • He is not wise or handsome *either*. [=he is neither wise nor handsome] ♦ The phrase *me either* is used in informal U.S. speech to say that you agree with a negative statement that someone has made. • “I didn’t like the movie.” “*Me either*.” [=I also didn’t like the movie] The phrase *me neither* is used in the same way. • “I don’t like that guy.” “*Me neither*.”

ejac·u·late /ɪˈdʒækjəleɪt/ *verb* -lates; -lat-ed; -lat-ing

1 *medical* : to release semen from the penis [+ *obj*] *ejaculate* semen [no *obj*] He was unable to *ejaculate*.

2 [+ *obj*] *old-fashioned* : to say (something) suddenly and forcefully • “Good God!” he *ejaculated*.

— **ejac·u·la·to·ry** /ɪˈdʒækjələˌtori/ *adj*, *medical* • *ejaculatory* ducts

ejac·u·la·tion /ɪˈdʒækjəˈleɪʃən/ *noun*, *pl* -tions

1 [count; noncount] *medical* : the release of semen from the penis • premature *ejaculation*

2 [count] *old-fashioned* : a short and sudden expression of emotion • He was greeted with *ejaculations* of surprise.

eject /ɪˈdʒekt/ *verb* ejects; eject-ed; eject-ing

1 [+ *obj*] : to force (someone) to leave — often + *from* • They *ejected* him from the game for hitting another player. • She was *ejected* from the restaurant. ♦ When someone is *ejected* from a place, it often means that physical force was used to make that person leave. • Several drunks had to be physically *ejected* from the bar.

2 [+ *obj*] : to push (something) out • The machine automatically *ejected* the CD.

3 [no *obj*] : to use a special device that throws you out and away from an airplane in an emergency : to use an ejection seat • The pilot *ejected* when his plane caught fire.

— **ejec·tion** /ɪˈdʒekʃən/ *noun*, *pl* -tions [count] protesting their *ejections* from the game • the foul meant an automatic *ejection* [noncount] automatic *ejection* of the CD

ejection seat (US) or **ejec·tor seat** /ɪˈdʒektər-/ *noun*, *pl* ~ seats [count] : a special seat in an airplane that is used to throw you out and away from the plane when the plane is going to crash

eke /iːk/ *verb* ekes; eked; ek-ing

eke out [*phrasal verb*] **eke out** (something) also **eke** (something) out 1 : to get or achieve (a living, a victory, etc.) with great difficulty • They *eked out* a living from the poor soil of the family’s farm. [=they could grow only enough food to survive] • It looks like he has narrowly *eked out* a win in the election. • The company *eked out* a tiny profit last year. 2 : to increase (something) by a small amount • He *eked out* [(more commonly) *supplemented*] his small income by working for neighbors. 3 : to make (a limited amount of something) last by using it carefully in small amounts • *eke out* food supplies

EKG /iːˌkerˈdʒiː/ *noun*, *pl* **EKGs** [count] *medical*

1 : a printed recording of the heart’s electrical activity made by a special machine — called also *ECG*, *electrocardiogram*

2 : a machine that detects and records the electrical activity of the heart — called also *ECG*, *electrocardiograph*

¹**elab·o·rate** /ɪˈləbəˌreɪt/ *adj* [more ~; most ~] : made or done with great care or with much detail : having many parts that are carefully arranged or planned • They made *elaborate* preparations for his visit. • I see now that her behavior was all part of an *elaborate* plan/plot/scheme. • The dancers were wearing *elaborate* costumes. • He told the story in *elaborate* detail. • an *elaborate* meal

— **elab·o·rate·ly** *adv* • The room was *elaborately* decorated.

— **elab·o·rate·ness** *noun* [noncount]

²**elab·o·rate** /ɪˈləbəˌreɪt/ *verb* -rates; -rat-ed; -rat-ing

1 [no *obj*] : to give more details about something : to discuss something more fully • I’ll be glad to *elaborate* if you want to hear more. • She was asked to say more about her earlier statements, but she declined/refused to *elaborate*. — often + *on* • She refused to *elaborate on* her earlier statements.

2 [+ *obj*] : to bring (something, such as an idea or a plan) to a more advanced or developed state • The philosopher spent years *elaborating* [=developing] his ideas.

— **elab·o·ra·tion** /ɪˈləbəˌreɪʃən/ *noun*, *pl* -tions [noncount] The design requires further *elaboration*. [count] his *elaborations* of the basic design

élan /eɪˈlɑːn/ *noun* [noncount] *literary* : energy and enthusiasm • The dancer performed with great *élan*.

elapse /ɪˈlæps/ *verb* elaps-es; elapsed; elaps-ing [no *obj*] of time : to pass by • Weeks *elapsed* [=passed] before he returned home.

¹**elas·tic** /ɪˈlæstɪk/ *adj* [more ~; most ~]

1 : able to return to an original shape or size after being stretched, squeezed, etc. • *elastic* fibers • an *elastic* bandage • pants with an *elastic* [=stretchable] waist

2 : able to be changed • an *elastic* [=flexible] plan • an *elastic* concept

— **elas·tic·i·ty** /ɪˈlæsˈtɪsəti/ *noun* [noncount] • the *elasticity* of the fibers

²**elastic** *noun*, *pl* -tics

1 [noncount] : material that can be stretched : elastic fabric • the *elastic* in socks

2 [count] US : RUBBER BAND • She wrapped an *elastic* around the cards.

elas·ti·cat·ed /ɪˈlæstəˌkertəd/ *adj*, Brit : ELASTICIZED

elastic band *noun*, *pl* ~ bands [count] Brit : RUBBER BAND

elas·ti·cized /ɪˈlæstəˌsaɪzd/ *adj*, US : containing something that returns to an original shape or size after being stretched : made with an elastic material inside • an *elasticized* waistband

elate /ɪˈleɪt/ *verb* elates; elat-ed; elat-ing [+ *obj*] : to make (someone) very happy and excited • The discovery has *elated* researchers.

— **ela·tion** /ɪˈleɪʃən/ *noun* [noncount] • her feelings of *elation* at being chosen for the job

elated /ɪˈleɪtəd/ *adj* [more ~; most ~] : very happy and excited • She was *elated* at/about/over the news. • She was *elated* to be chosen for the job. = She was *elated* that she was chosen for the job.

¹**el·bow** /ˈelˌbou/ *noun*, *pl* -bows [count]

1 **a** : the joint where your arm bends — see picture at HUMAN **b** : the part of a piece of clothing that covers the elbow • He wore a tattered coat with holes in the *elbows*.

2 : something (such as a pipe or a piece of food) that is bent like an elbow • *elbow* macaroni — see picture at PLUMBING **at someone’s elbow** : next to someone : at someone’s side • His assistant is always *at his elbow*. • The drink *at her elbow* was untouched.

give (someone) the elbow Brit, informal : to end a relationship with someone : to tell someone to go away • She *gave her boyfriend the elbow* after he lied to her.

rub elbows see ¹RUB

²**elbow** *verb* elbows; el-bowed; el-bow-ing : to push or shove (someone) with your elbow [+ *obj*] The actor’s bodyguards rudely *elbowed* everyone out of the way. • I quietly *elbowed* [=nudged] my friend to get his attention. — sometimes used figuratively • Some of the older workers are being *elbowed* [=pushed] aside as the company tries to attract young employees. [no *obj*] Everyone was shoving and *elbowing* to get a good position. ♦ If you *elbow your way* through a crowd, you move ahead by pushing and forcing people to move out of the way. • He *elbowed his way* through the crowd to get closer to the stage.

elbow grease *noun* [noncount] informal : physical effort : hard work • It’s going to take some *elbow grease* to get this counter clean. ♦ *Elbow grease* usually refers to the effort needed to clean or polish something.

elbow room *noun* [noncount] : room or space to move or work freely • It’s a small kitchen with very little *elbow room*. — often used figuratively • The company provides its workers with *elbow room* to try new ideas.

¹**elder** /ˈeldər/ *adj*, always used before a noun : of greater age : OLDER ♦ *Elder* is usually used to describe people who are members of the same family. • my *elder* brother/sister [=my brother/sister who is older than I am] • my *elder* son/daughter [=the older one of my two sons/daughters]

the elder 1 — used in comparing the ages of two people who are members of the same family • He’s *the elder* of her two brothers. 2 — used to refer to the older of two people (such as a father and son) who have the same name • *Pliny the Elder* and his nephew *Pliny the Younger*

²**elder** *noun*, *pl* el-ders

1 [count] : a person who is older — usually plural • He was told to respect his *elders*. [=people who were older than he was] • She learned from her *elders*. • (formal) He was my *elder* by 11 months. [=he was 11 months older than I was] • (chiefly Brit) You should respect *your elders and betters*. [=people who are older and more important than you]

2 [count] : a person who has authority because of age and experience • a village *elder* • Traditions passed down by *elders* in the tribe.

3 **elders** [plural] : old people • day care for *elders* [=the elderly]

4 [count] : an official in some Christian churches
— compare ³ELDER

³**elder** *noun*, *pl elders* [count] : ELDERBERRY 2 — compare ²ELDER

el-der-ber-ry /'eldə,beri/ *noun*, *pl -ries* [count]

1 : a black or red berry that comes from a type of bush or tree with bunches of white or pink flowers

2 : a tree or bush that produces elderberries

elder care *noun* [noncount] *US* : the care of old people • an *elder care* facility [=a place that provides care for elderly people] : the care of elderly parents by their children • resources for childcare and *elder care*

el-der-ly /'eldəli/ *adj* [more ~; most ~] : old or rather old : past middle age • The program is intended to provide medical care for *elderly* people. • an *elderly* couple

the elderly : elderly people • providing care for *the elderly*

elder statesman *noun*, *pl ~ -men* [count]

1 : a retired government leader who gives advice to current leaders

2 : a respected man who has been a member of a group or organization for a long time • an *elder statesman* of baseball coaches

el-dest /'eldəst/ *adj*, always used before a noun : of the greatest age : OLDEST ♦ *Eldest* is usually used to describe people who are members of the same family. • my *eldest* brother/sister/son/daughter/child

the eldest — used in comparing the ages of people who are members of the same family • He's *the eldest* of her three brothers.

¹**elect** /'i'lekt/ *verb* **elects**; **elect-ed**; **elect-ing** [+ *obj*]

1 : to select (someone) for a position, job, etc., by voting • She was *elected* (as) senator. = She was *elected* to the Senate. • He hopes to be *elected* to the committee. • an *elected* official

2 somewhat formal : to choose to do (something) — followed by *to* + *verb* • We *elected* [=decided] to stay home.

²**elect** *noun* [plural] : people who belong to a special group and have privileges that other people do not have • His new status earned him a place among the city's *elect*. [= (more commonly) *elite*]

³**elect** *adj*, always used after a noun : having been elected : chosen for a public office but not yet holding that office • the governor *elect* — often hyphenated • the president-*elect*

elec-tion /'i'lekʃən/ *noun*, *pl -tions* [count]

1 : the act or process of choosing someone for a public office by voting • a presidential/gubernatorial *election* • He's favored to win the *election*. — often used before another noun • The *election* results are in. • (US) Today is *election day*. [= (Brit) *polling day*] — see also GENERAL ELECTION

2 : the fact of being elected • The scandal may affect his chances for *election*. • Her *election* to the Senate was a surprise to many.

elec-tion-er-ing /i,lekʃə'niriŋ/ *noun* [noncount] : the things that are done and said to help a political candidate or party to win an election • Her tireless *electioneering* won her the election.

¹**elec-tive** /'i'lektiv/ *adj*

1 : held by a person who is elected • He's never held an *elec-tive* office.

2 : done or taken by choice: such as a : not medically necessary • Plastic surgery is *elective* surgery. b chiefly *US* : not required in a particular course of study • She took three *elec-tive* courses last term.

²**elective** *noun*, *pl -tives* [count] *US* : a class that is not required in a particular course of study • She's taking several *electives* this year. — called also (Brit) *option*

elec-tor /'i'lektər/ *noun*, *pl -tors* [count]

1 : a member of the Electoral College in the U.S.

2 formal : someone who can vote in an election : VOTER

elec-tor-al /'i'lektərəl, i:lek'torəl/ *adj*, always used before a noun : of or relating to an election or to the process by which people are elected • *electoral* politics • an *electoral* district • an *electoral* system

Electoral College *noun*

the Electoral College : a group of people chosen from each U.S. state who meet to elect the President and Vice President of the U.S. based on the votes of all the people in each state

elec-tor-ate /'i'lektərət/ *noun*, *pl -ates* [count] : the people who can vote in an election — usually singular • The candi-

dates try hard to appeal to the *electorate*. [=voters]

electr- or **electro-** combining form

1 : electricity • *electromagnet*

2 : electric • *electrode* : electric and • *electrochemical*

elec-tric /'i'lektrik/ *adj*

1 or **elec-tri-cal** /'i'lektrikəl/ a : of or relating to electricity

• an *electric/electrical* current • The device administers a mild *electric* shock. b : operated by electricity • an *electric* motor/heater/blanket/razor/appliance • The pasture was surrounded by an *electric fence* [=a fence that has an electrical current passing through it] c : providing electricity • I plug into any *electric* socket. • The *electrical* cord is damaged. • There's a problem with the building's *electrical* wiring. — compare ELECTRONIC

2 : producing sound by using electricity • an *electric* piano • *electric* guitars

3 [more ~; most ~] : very exciting or thrilling • The pianist gave an *electric* performance. ; also : filled with tension or excitement • The atmosphere in the room was *electric*.

— **elec-tri-cal-ly** /'i'lektrikli/ *adv* • an *electrically* operated switch

electrical engineering *noun* [noncount] : a type of engineering that deals with the uses of electricity

— **electrical engineer** *noun*, *pl ~ -neers* [count]

electrical storm *noun*, *pl ~ storms* [count] : a storm that has a lot of lightning — called also *electric storm*

electric chair *noun* [singular] : a special chair in which a criminal who has been sentenced to death is killed by using a strong electric current

electric eel *noun*, *pl ~ eels* [count] : a long, thin South American fish that is able to give a severe electric shock

elec-tri-cian /i,lek'triʃən/ *noun*, *pl -cians* [count] : a person who works on and repairs electrical equipment

elec-tric-i-ty /i,lek'trisəti/ *noun* [noncount]

1 : a form of energy that is carried through wires and is used to operate machines, lights, etc. • *Electricity* can be dangerous. — see also STATIC ELECTRICITY

2 : electric current or power • The *electricity* went off during the storm. • an old building with no plumbing or *electricity*

3 : a feeling of excitement or tension • You could feel the *electricity* in the room.

elec-trics /'i'lektriks/ *noun* [plural] *Brit* : the electrical parts of something (such as a machine or a house)

electric storm *noun*, *pl ~ storms* [count] : ELECTRICAL STORM

elec-tri-fy /'i'lektrə,faɪ/ *verb* -fies; -fied; -fy-ing [+ *obj*]

1 a : to pass electricity through (something) • an *electrified fence* [=a fence that has electricity running through it] b

: to supply (an area, building, etc.) with electric power • Many of the rural areas still aren't *electrified*.

2 : to cause (someone) to feel great excitement • The news *electrified* the nation.

— **elec-tri-fi-ca-tion** /i,lektrə'feɪʃən/ *noun* [noncount] • rural *electrification* programs [=programs for supplying electricity to rural areas] — **electrifying** *adj* [more ~, most ~] • His performance was *electrifying*. [=very exciting] • *electrifying* news

electro- see ELECTR-

elec-tro-car-dio-gram /i,lektrou'kaədiə,græm/ *noun*, *pl -grams* [count] *medical* : EKG

elec-tro-car-dio-graph /i,lektrou'kaədiə,græf, Brit i,lektrou'ka:diə,grɑ:f/ *noun*, *pl -graphs* [count] *medical* : EKG

elec-tro-con-vul-sive therapy /i,lektroukən'vʌlsiv-/ *noun* [noncount] *medical* : SHOCK THERAPY

elec-tro-cute /'i'lektrə,kju:t/ *verb* -cutes; -cut-ed; -cut-ing [+ *obj*] : to kill (a person or animal) by electric shock — usually used as (be/get) *electrocuted* • He stepped on the power line and was nearly *electrocuted*.

— **elec-tro-cu-tion** /i,lektərə'kju:ʃən/ *noun*, *pl -tions* [non-count] There is a risk of *electrocution*. [count] There have been two *electrocutions* this year.

elec-trode /'i'lek,troud/ *noun*, *pl -trodes* [count] : one of the two points through which electricity flows into or out of a battery or other device

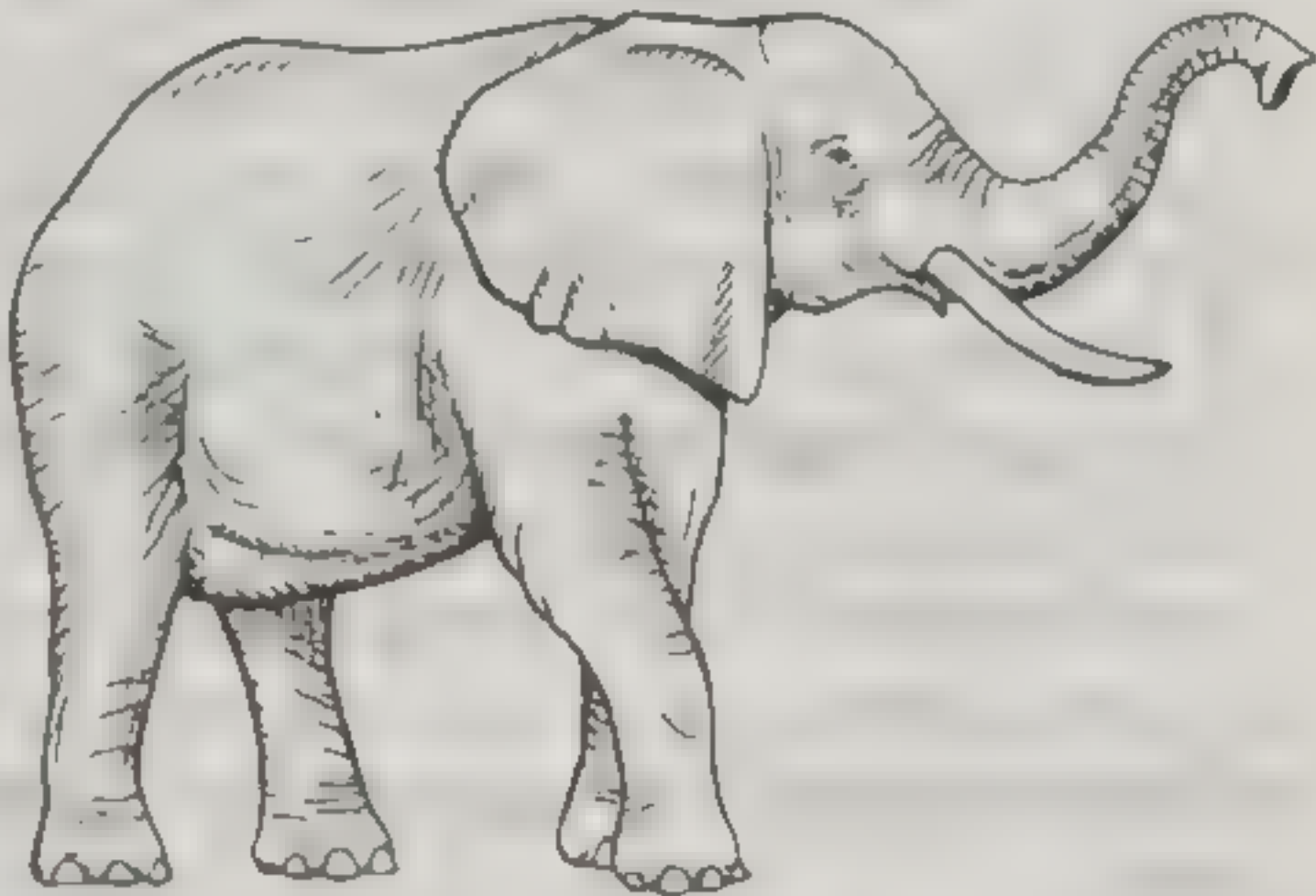
elec-tro-en-ceph-a-lo-gram /i,lektrowin'sefələ,græm/ *noun*, *pl -grams* [count] *medical* : EEG

elec-tro-en-ceph-a-lo-graph /i,lektrowin'sefələ,græf, Brit i,lektrowin'sefələ,grɑ:f/ *noun*, *pl -graphs* [count] *medical* : EEG

elec-trol-y-sis /i,lek'trɔ:ləsəs/ *noun* [noncount]

1 : the process of removing unwanted hair by killing the hair root with an electric current • She had *electrolysis* done on her upper lip.
2 chemistry : the process of separating a liquid into its different chemical parts by passing an electric current through it
elec-tro-lyte /ɪˈlɛktɹəˌlaɪt/ *noun, pl -lytes* [count]
1 chemistry : a liquid (such as the liquid in a battery) through which electricity can pass
2 technical : any one of various substances in the fluid of your body that control how your body processes waste and absorbs vitamins, minerals, etc. • The drink will replenish your *electrolytes*.
– **elec-tro-lyt-ic** /ɪˌlɛktɹəˈlɪtɪk/ *adj, technical* • *electrolytic* processes
elec-tro-mag-net /ɪˌlɛktɹouˈmæɡnət/ *noun, pl -nets* [count] : a piece of metal that becomes magnetic when an electric current is passed through or near it
elec-tro-mag-ne-tism /ɪˌlɛktɹouˈmæɡnəˌtɪzəm/ *noun* [noncount] *technical* : a magnetic field that is produced by a current of electricity
– **elec-tro-mag-net-ic** /ɪˌlɛktɹoumæɡˈnetɪk/ *adj* • the *electromagnetic spectrum* • *electromagnetic waves*
elec-tron /ɪˈlɛkˌtɹɑːn/ *noun, pl -trons* [count] *physics* : a very small particle of matter that has a negative charge of electricity and that travels around the nucleus of an atom
elec-tron-ic /ɪˌlɛkˈtɹɑːnɪk/ *adj*
1 : operating through the use of many small electrical parts (such as microchips and transistors) • *electronic* devices such as televisions and computers • an *electronic* circuit — compare *ELECTRIC*
2 : produced by the use of electronic equipment • *electronic music*
3 a : operating by means of a computer : involving a computer or a computer system • an *electronic* dictionary • We did an *electronic funds transfer*. [=moved money from one bank to another using their computer systems] **b** : done over the Internet • Sign up for *electronic* banking. • *electronic* messaging services
– **elec-tron-i-cal-ly** /ɪˌlɛkˈtɹɑːnɪkli/ *adv* • We transferred the money *electronically* from one bank to another.
elec-tron-i-ca /ɪˌlɛkˈtɹɑːnɪkə/ *noun* [noncount] : a kind of popular dance music that is produced using electronic equipment (such as synthesizers)
electronic mail *noun* [noncount] : E-MAIL • They communicate frequently by *electronic mail*.
elec-tron-ics /ɪˌlɛkˈtɹɑːnɪks/ *noun*
1 [plural] **a US** : devices (such as televisions, radios, and computers) that operate using many small electrical parts • Sales of consumer *electronics* are up. **b** : electronic parts • There are problems with the system's *electronics*.
2 [noncount] *technical* : a science that deals with the uses and effects of electrons
electron microscope *noun, pl ~ -scopes* [count] *technical* : a very powerful microscope that uses a beam of electrons to produce a large image of a very small object
elec-tro-plate /ɪˈlɛktɹəˌpleɪt/ *verb -plates; -plat-ed; -plat-ing* [+ obj] : to coat (something) with a thin layer of metal (such as silver) by using electrolysis (sense 2) — usually used as (be) *electroplated* • The platter has an *electroplated* finish.
el-e-gant /ˈɛlɪɡənt/ *adj* [more ~; most ~]
1 : showing good taste : graceful and attractive • *elegant* clothes • *elegant* prose • an *elegant* dinner
2 : simple and clever • an *elegant* solution to the problem
– **el-e-gance** /ˈɛlɪɡəns/ *noun* [noncount] • She's known for her *elegance*. • the *elegance* of the solution — **el-e-gant-ly** *adv* • *elegantly* dressed • an *elegantly* simple solution
el-e-gy /ˈɛlədʒi/ *noun, pl -gies* [count] *literary* : a sad poem or song : a poem or song that expresses sorrow for someone who is dead — compare *EULOGY*
– **el-e-gi-ac** /ˌɛləˈdʒajək/ *adj* [more ~; most ~] • *elegiac* poetry • The passage has an *elegiac* tone.
el-e-ment /ˈɛləmənt/ *noun, pl -ments*
1 [count] *chemistry* : one of the basic substances that are made of atoms of only one kind and that cannot be separated by ordinary chemical means into simpler substances • chemical *elements* • Water is composed of the *elements* hydrogen and oxygen.
2 [count] : a particular part of something (such as a situation or activity) • Self-confidence was a key/vital *element* [=factor] in her success. • There's always an *element* of risk [=there's always some risk] in starting a new business. • There's a large

element of truth [=there's a great deal of truth] in what she says. • The attackers were relying on the *element of surprise*. [=they were relying on their attack being a surprise]
3 [count] : a part of an electrical device that produces heat • the (heating) *element* of an electric iron
4 elements [plural] : the most basic parts of a subject of study • the *elements* [=rudiments] of grammar
5 [count] : a group of people that form part of a larger group • the different *elements* of society • the criminal *element*
6 elements [plural] : the weather and especially stormy or cold weather • The deck's bare wood was exposed to the *elements*. • The climbers battled/braved the *elements* to reach the summit.
7 [singular] : the state or place that is normal or suited to a person or thing • At school she was (really) *in her element*. [=in a place where she was comfortable and did well] • I tried living in the city, but I was/felt out of my *element* there. [=living in the city did not suit me]
8 [count] : one of the four substances (air, water, fire, and earth) that were believed in the past to make up every physical thing in the universe
el-e-men-tal /ˌɛləˈmentl/ *adj*
1 [more ~; most ~] *somewhat formal* : basic and important : *FUNDAMENTAL* • *elemental* human needs • an *elemental* difference between the two — compare *ELEMENTARY*
2 [more ~; most ~] *literary* : having the power of a force of nature • Their *elemental* passion led to tragedy. • the *elemental* power/violence/fury of the storm
3 technical : of or relating to a chemical element • *elemental* components • an *elemental* analysis of the solution
– **el-e-men-tal-ly** *adv* • an *elementally* [=fundamentally] simple notion
el-e-men-ta-ry /ˌɛləˈmentri/ *adj*
1 [more ~; most ~] : basic and simple • an *elementary* principle • He is lacking even the most *elementary* notions of fairness. • The researchers made an *elementary* error. : involving the simplest parts of a subject • He has an *elementary* understanding of calculus. • *elementary* arithmetic — compare *ELEMENTAL*
2 *always used before a noun, chiefly US* : of or relating to elementary school • *elementary* [=grade-school] students • *elementary* education
elementary particle *noun, pl ~ -cles* [count] *physics* : a particle (such as an electron or proton) that is smaller than an atom and does not appear to be made up of a combination of more basic things
elementary school *noun, pl ~ schools* [count, non-count] : a school in the U.S. for young children ♦ Children in the U.S. attend elementary school for their first four to eight years of schooling. — called also *grade school*, *grammar school*, *primary school*
el-e-phant /ˈɛləfənt/ *noun, pl -phants* [count] : a very large gray animal that has a long, flexible nose and two long tusks — see also *WHITE ELEPHANT*
el-e-phan-tine /ˌɛləˈfænˌtiːn, Brit ˌɛləˈfænˌtaɪn/ *adj* [more ~; most ~]
1 : very large like an elephant • a problem of *elephantine* [=massive] proportions • He has an *elephantine* ego.
2 : not graceful : awkward or clumsy • *elephantine* movements
el-e-vate /ˈɛləˌveɪt/ *verb -vates; -vat-ed; -vat-ing* [+ obj]
1 : to lift (something) up • The doctor told her to *elevate* [=raise] her leg.
2 : to increase the level of (something) : to make (something) higher • exercises that *elevate* the heart rate
3 : to raise (someone) to a higher rank or level • He was *elevated* to (the position of) chairman. = He was *elevated* to the chairmanship.
4 somewhat formal : to improve the mind or mood of (someone) • A great book can both *elevate* and entertain its readers. • A great book can *elevate* the human spirit. • It was an *elevating* [=uplifting] experience.
elevate something to an art (form) see *ART*
el-e-vat-ed /ˈɛləˌveɪtəd/ *adj* [more ~; most ~]



elephant



- 1 : raised above the ground • an *elevated* highway
 2 : higher than normal • *elevated* blood pressure
 3 : having an intelligent and usually formal tone or quality • an *elevated* mind • *elevated* discourse • Her poetry is known for its *elevated* style/tone.

el-e-va-tion /ˌeləˈveɪʃən/ noun, pl -tions [count]

- 1 : the height of a place • a plant species found only at higher/lower *elevations* • an *elevation* [=altitude] of 4,000 feet (above sea level)
 2 : an act or result of lifting or raising someone or something • We charted the *elevations* in her temperature. • His *elevation* to (the position of) chairman was a surprise to many.
 3 : a place (such as a hill) that is higher than the area around it

el-e-va-tor /ˈeləˌveɪtər/ noun, pl -tors [count] US

- 1 : a machine used for carrying people and things to different levels in a building • We took/rode the *elevator* to the 10th floor. — called also (Brit) *lift*
 2 : a tall building for storing grain — called also *grain elevator*

elevator music noun [noncount] US : instrumental versions of popular songs that are often played in elevators, offices, etc.

elev-en /ˈlɛvən/ noun, pl -ens

- 1 [count] : the number 11
 2 [count] : the eleventh in a set or series • page *eleven* • item/question number *eleven*
 3 [noncount] : eleven o'clock • I got home last night at *eleven*.
 — **eleven** *adj* • *eleven* turtles — **eleven** *pronoun* • *Eleven* (of them) were absent from the ceremony. — **elev-enth** /ˈlɛvənθ/ noun, pl -enths [count] • one *eleventh* of the total — **eleventh** *adj* • the *eleventh* person in line — **eleventh** *adv* • He finished *eleventh* in the race.

eleventh hour noun [singular] : the latest possible time — usually used in the phrase *at the eleventh hour* • The killer's life was spared *at the eleventh hour*. [=at the last minute]

elf /ˈɛlf/ noun, pl **elves** /ˈɛlvz/ [count] : a small creature in stories usually with pointed ears and magical powers • a mischievous *elf*

— **elf-ish** /ˈɛlfɪʃ/ *adj* [more ~; most ~] • an *elfish* face

elf-in /ˈɛlfən/ *adj* [more ~; most ~] : having to do with elves : looking like an elf • They were delighted with the child's *elf-in* charm. • a cute, *elfin* face

elic-it /ˈlɪsət/ verb **elic-its**; **elicit-ed**; **elicit-ing** [+ *obj*] *formal* : to get (a response, information, etc.) from someone • She's been trying to *elicit* the support of other committee members. • My question *elicited* no response. • She's been unable to *elicit* much sympathy from the public.

el-i-gi-ble /ˈɛlədʒəbəl/ *adj*

- 1 : able to be chosen for something : able to do or receive something • I'd like to join but I'm not *eligible* yet. • *eligible* voters — often followed by *to* + *verb* • She is *eligible to be* (elected) president. • He won't be *eligible to retire* until next year. — often + *for* • He's *eligible for* health insurance through his employer. • *eligible for* a loan
 2 [more ~; most ~] : suitable and desirable for marriage • He's an *eligible bachelor*. [=an unmarried man who would make a good husband]

— **el-i-gi-bil-i-ty** /ˌɛlədʒəˈbɪləti/ noun [noncount] • *eligibility for* a loan

elim-i-nate /ˈlɪməˌneɪt/ verb -nates; -nat-ed; -nat-ing [+ *obj*]

- 1 : to remove (something that is not wanted or needed) : to get rid of (something) • Doctors seek to *eliminate* the causes of the epidemic. • The body naturally *eliminates* waste products. • The company plans to *eliminate* more than 2,000 jobs in the coming year. • The regime has ruthlessly *eliminated* [=killed] the leaders of the opposition. • She's trying to *eliminate* fatty foods from her diet.
 2 : to defeat and remove (a team, player, etc.) from a competition — often used as (be/get) *eliminated* • The team was *eliminated* in the first round of the play-offs.

elim-i-na-tion /ˌlɪməˌneɪʃən/ noun [noncount] : the act or process of removing something or someone • the *elimination* of waste products from the body • They arrived at their decision by a *process of elimination* [=by considering and rejecting each possible choice until only one was left]

elite /ˈli:t/ noun, pl **elites** [count]

- 1 : the people who have the most wealth and status in a society : the most successful or powerful group of people — usually singular • a store that caters to the (social) *elite* • the intellectual/political/academic *elite* ♦ *Elite* can be used with

either a singular or, more commonly, a plural verb. • The country's *elite* is/are opposed to the new ruler.

2 US : a person who is a member of an elite : a successful and powerful person — usually plural • Many business *elites* oppose the new policy.

— **elite** *adj*, always used before a noun [more ~; most ~] • *elite* members of the division • an *elite* corps/club/university

elit-ist /ˈli:tɪst/ *adj* [more ~; most ~] *disapproving*

1 : giving special treatment and advantages to wealthy and powerful people • *elitist* colleges • The country club is very *elitist*.

2 : regarding other people as inferior because they lack power, wealth, etc. • She's an *elitist* snob.

— **elit-ism** /ˈli:tɪzəm/ noun [noncount] • the *elitism* of top colleges — **elitist** noun, pl -ists [count] • a country club full of *elitists*

elix-ir /ˈlɪksər/ noun, pl -irs [count] : a magical liquid that can cure illness or extend life • the *elixir* of life

Eliz-a-be-than /ˌlɪzəˈbi:θən/ *adj* : relating to Queen Elizabeth I of England or the time when she ruled (1558 to 1603) • *Elizabethan* poetry

— **Elizabethan** noun, pl -thans [count] • Shakespeare and other great *Elizabethans*

elk /ˈɛlk/ noun, pl **elk** or **elks** [count]

1 US : a large kind of North American deer with big antlers — see picture at DEER; compare RED DEER

2 Brit : a European or Asian moose

el-lipse /ˈlɪps/ noun, pl -lips-es [count] : a shape that resembles a flattened circle : OVAL

el-lip-sis /ˈlɪpsəs/ noun, pl -lip-ses /ˈlɪp,sɪz/

1 [noncount] : the act of leaving out one or more words that are not necessary for a phrase to be understood • “Begin when ready” for “Begin when you are ready” is an example of *ellipsis*.

2 [count] : a sign (such as . . .) used in printed text to show that words have been left out

el-lip-ti-cal /ˈlɪptɪkəl/ or **el-lip-tic** /ˈlɪptɪk/ *adj* [more ~; most ~]

1 : shaped like a flattened circle : OVAL • The moon follows an *elliptical* path around the Earth.

2 : using few words and therefore hard to understand • a writer with an *elliptical* style

— **el-lip-ti-cal-ly** /ˈlɪptɪkli/ *adv*

elm /ˈɛlm/ noun, pl **elms**

1 [count, noncount] : a tall shade tree with spreading branches

2 [noncount] : the wood of an elm

El Ni-ño /ˈɛlˈniːnyou/ noun, pl ~ **Ni-ños** [count] : a flow of unusually warm water along the western coast of South America that causes many changes in weather in other places (such as a lot of rain in areas that are usually dry)

el-o-cu-tion /ˌɛləˈkjuːʃən/ noun [noncount] *formal* : the study of how to speak clearly and in a way that is effective and socially acceptable • He took lessons in *elocution*.

— **el-o-cu-tion-ary** /ˌɛləˈkjuːʃənəri/ *adj* • her *elocutionary* skill — **el-o-cu-tion-ist** /ˌɛləˈkjuːʃənɪst/ noun, pl -ists [count] • He took lessons from an *elocutionist*.

elon-gate /ˈlɒːŋˌgeɪt, Brit ˈiːlɒŋgeɪt/ verb -gates; -gat-ed; -gat-ing : to make (something) longer or to grow longer : LENGTHEN [+ *obj*] These stretching exercises can help *elongate* your leg muscles. • New medical procedures have *elongated* the careers of many athletes. [no *obj*] an *elongating* cell

— **elon-gat-ed** /ˈlɒːŋˌgeɪtəd, Brit ˈiːlɒŋgeɪtəd/ *adj* [more ~; most ~] • an *elongated* pause • an *elongated* [=long and thin] figure — **elon-ga-tion** /iːˌlɒŋˌgeɪʃən/ noun [noncount] • muscular *elongation*

elope /ˈlɒup/ verb **elopes**; **eloped**; **elop-ing** [no *obj*] : to run away secretly to get married • The couple *eloped* in the middle of the night.

— **elope-ment** /ˈlɒupmənt/ noun, pl -ments [count, noncount]

el-o-quence /ˈɛləkwəns/ noun [noncount] : the ability to speak or write well and in an effective way • The senator's *eloquence* is well known. • She spoke with *eloquence* on the need for better schools. • We were moved by her *eloquence*. = We were moved by the *eloquence* of her words.

el-o-quent /ˈɛləkwənt/ *adj* [more ~; most ~]

1 : having or showing the ability to use language clearly and effectively • an *eloquent* speech/speaker • an *eloquent* essay • He *waxed eloquent* [=he said many things] on/about the pleasures of gardening.

2 : clearly showing feeling or meaning • His success serves as an *eloquent* reminder of the value of hard work.

– **el-o-quent-ly** *adv* [*more ~; most ~*] • She spoke *eloquently* about the need for better schools.

¹**else** /'els/ *adv* : in a different or additional manner or place • How *else* could it be done? [=in what other way could it be done?] • Where *else* can we meet? [=at what other place can we meet?] • “Where did you meet that actor?” “In Hollywood—where *else*?” [=at what other place would I be likely to meet an actor?] • We decided to go someplace *else* for dinner. : at a different or additional time • I don't know when *else* we could go. [=don't know another time when we could go]

or else 1 — used to say what will happen if something is not done • You have to leave *or else* you will be arrested for trespassing. 2 — used to say what another possibility is • He either thinks he can't do it *or else* he just isn't interested. 3 *informal* — used in angry speech to express a threat without saying exactly what the threat is • Do what I say *or else*!

²**else** *adj* — used to refer to a different or additional person or thing • He values friendship more than anything *else*. = He values friendship above all *else*. • That's somebody *else's* [=some other person's] problem. • If all *else* fails, surgery is an option. • Someone *else* in addition to him will have to do it. • What *else* did he say? • There was nothing *else* to be done. • Who *else* is coming to the party? • Would you like anything/something *else*? • There isn't much *else* [=more] going on. • The food was cheap, *if nothing else*. [=the food was not very good, but at least it was cheap]

nothing else for it see ¹NOTHING

something else see ¹SOMETHING

what else is new? *informal* — used to say that you are not surprised by something you have been told • “They lost again.” “So *what else is new?*”

elsewhere /'els,weə/ *adv* : in or to another place • The angry customer said he would take his business *elsewhere*. • *Elsewhere* in the same book she gives another date. • The parts are produced *elsewhere*.

elu-ci-date /'lu:sə,deɪt/ *verb* -dates; -dat-ed; -dat-ing *formal* : to make (something that is hard to understand) clear or easy to understand [+ *obj*] The spokesman was asked to *elucidate* [=clarify, explain] the government's policies (to/for us). [*no obj*] When asked for details, he declined to *elucidate* further.

– **elu-ci-da-tion** /'lu:sə'deɪʃən/ *noun*, *pl* -tions [*noncount*] notes providing *elucidation* of the text • reporters seeking *elucidation* of the government's policy [*count*] reporters seeking *elucidations* of the government's policy

elude /i'lu:d/ *verb* eludes; elud-ed; elud-ing [+ *obj*]

1 : to avoid or escape (someone or something) by being quick, skillful, or clever • The killer was able to *elude* the police. • The killer has *eluded* capture. • (American football) The running back *eluded* five tacklers.

2 **a** : to fail to be understood or remembered by (someone) • The cause of the disease continues to *elude* researchers. • The name of the author *eludes* me for the moment. [=I don't remember the name of the author] **b** : to fail to be achieved by (someone) • Victory has *eluded* us. [=we have been unable to achieve victory] **c** ✦ When something *eludes detection/discovery*, people try to find it but are unable to. • The cause of the disease has *eluded detection/discovery*.

Do not confuse *elude* with *allude*.

elu-sive /i'lu:sɪv/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*]

1 : hard to find or capture • *elusive* creatures • The solution remains *elusive*. • The truth may prove *elusive*.

2 : hard to understand, define, or remember • an *elusive* concept/idea/name

– **elu-sive-ly** *adv* – **elu-sive-ness** *noun* [*noncount*] • the *elusiveness* of truth

elves *plural of* ELF

em- see EN-

'em /əm/ *pronoun, informal* : THEM — used to represent an informal pronunciation of “them” • He said, “Let *'em* think what they want.”

ema-ci-at-ed /i'meɪʃi,eɪtəd/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] : very thin because of hunger or disease • The illness left her in an *emaciated* condition. = The illness left her *emaciated*.

– **ema-ci-a-tion** /i'meɪʃi'eɪʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*]

¹**e-mail** /i:'meɪl/ *noun*, *pl* -mails

¹ [*noncount*] : a system for sending messages from one com-

puter to another computer • They communicate with each other by *e-mail*. • an *e-mail* message

2 **a** [*noncount*] : messages that are sent electronically from one computer to another • I seem to spend most of my time these days reading *e-mail*. **b** [*count*] : an e-mail message • She sent me an *e-mail*.

²**e-mail** *verb* -mails; -mailed; -mail-ing [+ *obj*] : to send e-mail to (someone) • I'll *e-mail* you tomorrow. : to send (a message) to someone by e-mail • I'll *e-mail* my response to you tomorrow. = I'll *e-mail* you my response tomorrow.

em-a-nate /'emə,neɪt/ *verb* -nates -nat-ed; -nat-ing

1 [*no obj*] : to come out from a source • Good smells *emanated* from the kitchen. • Constant criticism has *emanated* from her opponents. • Happiness seems to *emanate* from her.

2 [+ *obj*] : to send (something) out : to give out (something) • Some radioactive substances can *emanate* [= (more commonly) *emit*] radiation for many years. • She seems to *emanate* happiness.

– **em-a-na-tion** /'emə'neɪʃən/ *noun*, *pl* -tions [*count*] radioactive *emanations* [*noncount*] the continuous *emanation* of new ideas

eman-ci-pate /i'mænsə,peɪt/ *verb* -pates; -pat-ed; -pat-ing [+ *obj*] *formal* : to free (someone) from someone else's control or power • *emancipate* a slave • He felt the only way to *emancipate* himself from his parents was to move away.

– **emancipated** *adj* • an *emancipated* slave • She considers herself an *emancipated* woman. [=a woman who is free from old social limitations and customs] – **eman-ci-pa-tion** /i'mænsə'peɪʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*] • the *emancipation* of the slaves – **eman-ci-pa-tor** /i'mænsə,peɪtə/ *noun*, *pl* -tors [*count*] chiefly US • an *emancipator* of slaves • Abraham Lincoln is sometimes called the Great *Emancipator*.

emas-cu-late /i'mæskjə,leɪt/ *verb* -lates; -lat-ed; -lat-ing [+ *obj*]

1 : to make (a man) feel less masculine : to deprive (a man) of his male strength, role, etc. • He plays the role of a meek husband who has been *emasculated* by his domineering wife.

2 : to make (something) weaker or less effective • Critics charged that this change would *emasculate* the law.

– **emas-cu-la-tion** /i'mæskjə'leɪʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*]

em-balm /ɪm'bɑ:m/ *verb* -balms; -balm-ed; -balm-ing [+ *obj*] : to treat (a dead body) with special chemicals to keep it from decaying

– **em-balm-er** *noun*, *pl* -ers [*count*]

em-bank-ment /ɪm'bæŋkmənt/ *noun*, *pl* -ments [*count*] : a raised bank or wall that is built to carry a roadway or hold back water

em-bar-go /ɪm'bɑ:gou/ *noun*, *pl* -goes [*count*] : a government order that limits trade in some way — often + *on* • The government has placed/put an *embargo* on arms shipments. • The *embargo* on oil will be lifted. • an *embargo* on oil/arms = an oil/arms *embargo*

– **embargo** *verb* -goes; -goed; -go-ing [+ *obj*] • The government has *embargoed* all arms shipments.

em-bark /ɪm'bɑ:k/ *verb* -barks; -barked; -bark-ing [*no obj*] : to begin a journey especially on a ship or airplane • The troops are waiting to *embark*. • Millions of Europeans *embarked* for America in the late 19th century. — opposite DE-BARK, DISEMBARK

embark on also embark upon [*phrasal verb*] **embark on/up-on (something)** 1 : to begin (a journey) • They *embarked on* their trip to America with high hopes. 2 : to begin (something that will take a long time or happen for a long time) • She's *embarking on* a new career. • The company has *embarked upon* a risky new project.

– **em-bar-ka-tion** /'em,bɑ:k'eɪʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*] • a port of *embarkation*

em-bar-rass /ɪm'berəs/ *verb* -rass-es; -rassed; -rass-ing

1 : to make (someone) feel confused and foolish in front of other people [+ *obj*] Unexpected laughter *embarrassed* the speaker. • She's worried about *embarrassing* herself in front of such a large audience. [*no obj*] She doesn't *embarrass* easily. [=she is not easily embarrassed]

2 [+ *obj*] : to make (a person, group, government, etc.) look foolish in public • I would never do anything to *embarrass* my family. • The protest was staged as a deliberate attempt to *embarrass* the government.

– **embarrassed** *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] • I've never been more *embarrassed* in my life. • I'm *embarrassed* (to admit) that I've never actually read the book. – **embarrassing** *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] • It was one of my most *embarrassing*

moments. • a very *embarrassing* scandal for the government — **em-bar-rass-ing-ly** /ɪm'berəsɪŋli/ *adv* • He was *embarrassingly* unprepared for the job interview.

em-bar-rass-ment /ɪm'berəsmənt/ *noun, pl -ments*

1 [*noncount*] : the state of feeling foolish in front of others • She couldn't hide her *embarrassment*. • Much to my *embarrassment*, I realized that I had forgotten his name. [=I was very embarrassed when I realized that I had forgotten his name]

2 [*count*] : something or someone that causes a person or group to look or feel foolish • The scandal was a major *embarrassment* for the government. • He's an *embarrassment* to his family.

3 [*count*] : a very large number of things from which to choose — usually singular; + *of* • We have an *embarrassment of choices/options*. [=we have a very large number of choices/options] • With so many fine restaurants in the city, diners are faced with an *embarrassment of riches*. [=there are so many fine restaurants that it is difficult to choose one]

em-bas-sy /'embəsi/ *noun, pl -sies* [*count*]

1 : a group of people who work under an ambassador and represent their country in a foreign country • *embassy* officials

2 : the building where an ambassador lives and works • Protesters marched outside the American *embassy*.

em-bat-tled /ɪm'bætld/ *adj*

1 : engaged in battle or conflict : surrounded by enemies • an *embattled* city

2 [*more ~; most ~*] : constantly criticized or attacked • the *embattled* coach of a losing team • the company's *embattled* president

em-bed *also im-bed* /ɪm'bed/ *verb -beds; -bed-ded; -bed-ding* [+ *obj*] : to place or set (something) firmly in something else • *embed* a post in concrete — often used figuratively • deeply *embedded* dislikes [=dislikes that have been felt for a long time and that are very deep] • values and beliefs that are *embedded* in our culture [=that are established as part of our culture]

em-bel-ish /ɪm'belɪʃ/ *verb -lish-es; -lished; -lish-ing* [+ *obj*] : to decorate (something) by adding special details and features : to make (something) more appealing or attractive • a book *embellished* with colorful illustrations • He *embellished* his speech with a few quotations. • (*humorous*) I didn't lie, I just *embellished* the story a little bit.

— **em-bel-ish-ment** /ɪm'belɪʃmənt/ *noun, pl -ments* [*noncount*] a story that doesn't require *embellishment* [*count*] architectural *embellishments*

em-ber /'embə/ *noun, pl -bers* [*count*] : a glowing piece of coal or wood from a fire — usually plural • He sat staring at the *embers* in the fireplace.

em-bez-zle /ɪm'bezəl/ *verb -bez-zles; -bez-zled; -bez-zling* : to steal money that you have been trusted with [+ *obj*] He was caught *embezzling* money/funds from his clients. [*no obj*] He was convicted of *embezzling*.

— **em-bez-zle-ment** /ɪm'bezəlmənt/ *noun* [*noncount*] • the *embezzlement* of funds — **em-bez-zler** /ɪm'bezələ/ *noun, pl -zlers* [*count*] • a convicted *embezzler*

em-bit-ter /ɪm'bitə/ *verb -ters; -tered; -ter-ing* [+ *obj*] : to cause bitter feelings in (someone) • The soldier was *embittered* by the war.

— **embittered** *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] • The war left him angry and *embittered*.

em-bla-zon /ɪm'bleɪzn/ *verb -zons; -zoned; -zon-ing* [+ *obj*]

1 : to write or draw (a name, picture, etc.) on a surface so that it can be seen very clearly — usually used as (*be*) *emblazoned* • The team's name was *emblazoned* on their helmets. • slogans and portraits *emblazoned* on banners

2 : to decorate (a surface) with something (such as a name or a picture) — usually used as (*be*) *emblazoned* • The helmets were *emblazoned* with the team's name. • banners *emblazoned* with slogans and portraits

em-blem /'embləm/ *noun, pl -blems* [*count*]

1 : an object or picture used to suggest a thing that cannot be shown • The flag is the *emblem* of our nation. • our national *emblem*

2 : a person or thing that represents an idea • He has come to be regarded as an *emblem* of conservatism.

em-blem-at-ic /,emblə'mætɪk/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] : representing something (such as an idea, state, or emotion) that cannot be seen by itself • an *emblematic* image — usually + *of* • The crown is *emblematic of* royalty. • The project's fail-

ure is now seen as *emblematic of* poor corporate judgment.

em-bod-i-ment /ɪm'bɑ:dɪmənt/ *noun, pl -ments* [*count*] *somewhat formal* : someone or something that is a perfect representative or example of a quality, idea, etc. • She's the *embodiment* of all our hopes. • Some consider him the (very) *embodiment* of evil.

em-body /ɪm'bɑ:di/ *verb -bod-ies; -bod-ied; -body-ing* [+ *obj*]

1 : to represent (something) in a clear and obvious way : to be a symbol or example of (something) • He is a leader who *embodies* courage. [=he is a very courageous leader]

2 *formal* : to include (something) as a part or feature • The legislature *embodied* a revenue provision in the new law. • The new law *embodies* a revenue provision. = A revenue provision is *embodied* in the new law.

em-bold-en /ɪm'bouldən/ *verb -ens; -ened; -en-ing* [+ *obj*] : to make (someone) more confident — usually used as (*be*) *emboldened* • He was *emboldened* by the success of his speech.

em-boss /ɪm'bɑ:s/ *verb -boss-es; -bossed; -boss-ing* [+ *obj*] : to decorate a surface with a raised pattern or design — usually used as (*be*) *embossed* • His stationery was *embossed* with his initials. • His initials were *embossed* on his stationery. — **embossed** *adj* • *embossed* stationery/paper/leather • an *embossed* pattern/image

em-brace /ɪm'breɪs/ *verb -brac-es; -braced; -brac-ing*

1 : to hold someone in your arms as a way of expressing love or friendship [+ *obj*] He *embraced* her warmly/lovingly/tenderly. • two old friends (warmly) *embracing* [=hugging] each other [*no obj*] They *embraced* one last time before going their separate ways. ♦ Although *embrace* and *hug* each describe holding another person in your arms, *embrace* usually suggests deeper or stronger feelings than *hug* does.

2 [+ *obj*] **a** : to accept (something or someone) readily or gladly • a politician who has been *embraced* by conservatives • *embrace* [=adopt] a cause/religion • These ideas have been (widely) *embraced* by the scientific community. **b** : to use (an opportunity) eagerly • She gladly/eagerly *embraced* [=welcomed] the opportunity/chance to study abroad.

3 [+ *obj*] *formal* : to contain or include (something) as a part of something larger • Charity *embraces* all acts of generous giving. • It's a subject that *embraces* many areas of learning.

4 [+ *obj*] *literary* : to enclose (something) on all sides — usually used as (*be*) *embraced* • a town *embraced* [=surrounded] by low hills

— **em-brace-able** /ɪm'breɪsəbəl/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*]

— **em-brac-er** *noun, pl -ers* [*count*] • an *embracer* of new technology

embrace *noun, pl embraces* [*count*] : the act of holding someone in your arms : the act of embracing someone • He held her in a warm/loving/tender *embrace*.

em-broi-der /ɪm'broidə/ *verb -ders; -dered; -der-ing* [+ *obj*]

1 : to sew a design on a piece of cloth • She *embroidered* tiny flowers on the baby's scarf. • a scarf *embroidered* with tiny flowers • an *embroidered* scarf

2 : to make (a story, the truth, etc.) more interesting by adding details that are not true or accurate • He is known to *embroider* the truth about his service in the army.

— **em-broi-der-er** /ɪm'broidərə/ *noun, pl -ers* [*count*] • a skillful *embroiderer*

em-broi-dery /ɪm'broidəri/ *noun, pl -der-ies*

1 [*noncount*] : the process or art of sewing a design on cloth • She learned *embroidery* from her grandmother.

2 : cloth decorated by sewing : embroidered material [*count*] a beautiful *embroidery* [*noncount*] her collection of *embroidery*

3 [*noncount*] : extra details that are added to make a story more interesting and that are not true or accurate • His stories about his travels include a good deal of *embroidery*.

em-broil /ɪm'broɪl/ *verb -broils; -broiled; -broil-ing* [+ *obj*] : to involve (someone or something) in conflict or difficulties • His stand on this issue has *embroiled* him in controversy. • The new drug has been *embroiled in* controversy. • They were *embroiled in* a complicated lawsuit.

— **em-broil-ment** /ɪm'broɪlmənt/ *noun* [*noncount*]

em-bryo /'embri,ou/ *noun, pl -bry-os* [*count*] : a human or animal in the early stages of development before it is born, hatched, etc. — compare FETUS

in embryo formal : in an early or undeveloped stage • The ideas he explored fully in his later work can be seen *in embryo* in his early books.

em·bry·on·ic /ˌembriˈɑːnɪk/ *adj*
1 : of or relating to an embryo • human *embryonic* development • *embryonic* tissue/cells
2 : in an early or undeveloped stage • an *embryonic* plan • The tourism industry there is still in/at an *embryonic* stage.

em·cee /ˌemˈsiː/ *noun, pl -cees* [count] *US* : MASTER OF CEREMONIES • It was his third appearance as *emcee* [=host] of the awards dinner.

emcee *verb -cees; -ceed; -cee-ing* *US* : to be the master of ceremonies for something [+ *obj*] She agreed to *emcee* [=host] an awards dinner. [no *obj*] She agreed to *emcee* at an awards dinner.

emend /iˈmend/ *verb* *emends; emend·ed; emend·ing* [+ *obj*] : to correct errors in (something written) • *emend* a text — compare *AMEND*
— **emen·da·tion** /ˌiːˌmənˈdeɪʃən/ *noun, pl -tions* [count, noncount]

em·er·ald /ˈemərəld/ *noun, pl -alds*
1 [count] : a bright green stone that is used in jewelry — see color picture on page C11
2 [noncount] : a bright or rich green color — called also *emerald green*; see color picture on page C2
— **emerald** /ˈemərəld/ *adj* • *emerald* [=bright green] eyes

emerge /iˈmɜːdʒ/ *verb* *emerg·es; emerged; emerg·ing* [no *obj*]
1 **a** : to become known or apparent • The facts *emerged* after a lengthy investigation. • A simple pattern has *emerged*. [=become clear] • Several possible candidates have *emerged*. **b** : to become known or regarded as something • She has *emerged* as a leading contender in the field. • His war record has *emerged* as a key issue in the election. • The movie has (suddenly/quickly/rapidly) *emerged* as one of the year's most surprising hits.
2 : to rise or appear from a hidden or unknown place or condition : to come out into view • when land first *emerged* from the sea • The cat *emerged* from its hiding place behind the couch. • animals *emerging* from a long period of inactivity
3 — used to indicate the usually good state or condition of someone or something at the end of an event, process, etc. • Both sides in the election remain confident that they will *emerge* victorious/triumphant. [=that they will win] • He *emerged* unharmed from the accident. [=he was not harmed in the accident]

emer·gence /iˈmɜːdʒəns/ *noun* [noncount] : the act of becoming known or coming into view : the act of emerging • his surprising *emergence* [=arrival, appearance] as a leader • the *emergence* of the Internet as an important means of communication • the economy's *emergence* from a recession

emer·gen·cy /iˈmɜːdʒənsi/ *noun, pl -cies* [count] : an unexpected and usually dangerous situation that calls for immediate action • Her quick thinking in an *emergency* saved the baby's life. • Here's a phone number where I can be reached in (the event of) an *emergency*. — often used before another noun • *emergency* vehicles/procedures/exits • The pilot was forced to make an *emergency* landing when one of the engines failed. ✧ A *state of emergency* is declared to give the government special powers to deal with an emergency. • The government declared a *state of emergency* to deal with all damage caused by the hurricane.

emergency brake *noun, pl ~ brakes* [count] *chiefly US* : a special brake (such as a parking brake in an automobile) that can be used for stopping when the main brakes fail

emergency medical technician *noun, pl ~ -cians* [count] *US* : EMT

emergency room *noun, pl ~ rooms* [count] *US* : a hospital room or area that is used for treating people who need immediate medical care — abbr. *ER* — called also (*Brit*) *casualty*

emer·gent /iˈmɜːdʒənt/ *adj, always used before a noun* : EMERGING • newly *emergent* nations

emerging *adj, always used before a noun* : newly created or noticed and growing in strength or popularity : becoming widely known or established • an *emerging* breed/group of new filmmakers [=a group of filmmakers who are becoming well known] • There is an *emerging* consensus that the war will end soon. • newly *emerging* countries/markets

emer·i·tus /iˈmerətəs/ *adj* : retired with an honorary title from an office or position especially in a university • a professor *emeritus* of American history = an *emeritus* professor of American history

em·ery board /ˈeməri-/ *noun, pl ~ boards* [count] : a piece of cardboard that is covered with a rough material and

that is used for smoothing and shaping fingernails

em·i·grant /ˈemɪɡrənt/ *noun, pl -grants* [count] : a person who leaves a country or region to live in another one : a person who emigrates • Millions of European *emigrants* came to America in the 19th century. • *emigrants* from Europe • *emi-grants* to America — compare *IMMIGRANT*, *MIGRANT*

em·i·grate /ˈeməˌɡreɪt/ *verb -grates; -grat·ed; -grat·ing* [no *obj*] : to leave a country or region to live elsewhere — often + *from* • My grandparents *emigrated* from Hungary. — sometimes + *to* • My grandparents *emigrated* to America. — compare *IMMIGRATE*, *MIGRATE*
— **em·i·gra·tion** /ˌeməˈɡreɪʃən/ *noun* [noncount] • Political unrest caused mass *emigration* following the war.

émi·gré also *US* **emi·gré** /ˈemɪˌɡreɪ/ *noun, pl -grés* [count] : *EMIGRANT*; especially : a person who is forced to leave a country for political reasons • He was one of a group of Soviet *émigrés* living in New York.

em·i·nence /ˈemɪnəns/ *noun, pl -nenc·es*
1 [noncount] : a condition of being well-known and successful • literary/social *eminence* [=prestige] • Many of his students have achieved *eminence* [=distinction] in their fields.
2 [count] *formal* : a person of high rank or achievements • a literary *eminence* — used as a title for a cardinal in the Roman Catholic church • His *Eminence*, Cardinal Cushing • Will Your *Eminence* please step this way.
3 [count] *formal* : an area of high ground • He built his home on an *eminence* [=height, hill] overlooking the city.

em·i·nent /ˈemɪnənt/ *adj* [more ~; most ~] : successful, well-known and respected • an *eminent* physician

Do not confuse *eminent* with *imminent*.

eminent domain *noun* [noncount] *law* : a right of a government to take private property for public use • The state took the homes by *eminent domain* to build the new road.

em·i·nent·ly /ˈemɪnəntli/ *adv* [more ~; most ~] *somewhat formal* : to a high degree • It was an *eminently* [=extremely, very] enjoyable evening. • an *eminently* sensible plan

emir /əˈmiːr/ *noun, pl emirs* [count] : a ruler, chief, or commander in an Islamic country

emir·ate /ˈemərət/ *noun, pl -ates* [count] : the country or position of an emir

em·is·sary /ˈeməˌseri, Brit ˈeməsri/ *noun, pl -sar·ies* [count] : a person who is sent on a mission to represent another person or organization • government *emissaries* [=envoys] trying to negotiate a settlement • She acted as the president's personal *emissary* to the union leaders.

emis·sion /iˈmɪʃən/ *noun, pl -sions*
1 [noncount] : the act of producing or sending out something (such as energy or gas) from a source • *emission* of light • trying to reduce the *emission* of greenhouse gases
2 [count] : something sent out or given off • The new regulations are intended to reduce auto *emissions*. [=harmful substances released into the air by automobiles]

emit /iˈmɪt/ *verb* *emits; emit·ted; emit·ting* [+ *obj*]
1 : to send (light, energy, etc.) out from a source • The telescope can detect light *emitted* by distant galaxies. • chimneys *emitting* thick, black smoke • The flowers of this plant *emit* [=give off] a powerful odor.
2 : to make (a certain sound) • The brakes *emitted* a loud squeal. • The students *emitted* [=let out] a (collective) groan as the test results were announced.

Em·my /ˈemi/ *noun, pl -mys* [count] : a small statue that is awarded each year to the best actors, programs, etc., in American television • She won an *Emmy* for that role.

emote /iˈmout/ *verb* *emotes; emot·ed; emot·ing* [no *obj*] : to express emotion in a very dramatic or obvious way • He stood on the stage, *emoting* and gesturing wildly.

emo·ti·con /iˈmoutɪˌkɑːn/ *noun, pl -cons* [count] : a group of keyboard characters that are used to represent a facial expression (such as a smile or frown) ✧ Emoticons are used by people writing on computers to indicate the tone or attitude of what is written. People often use a smiling emoticon like :-) to show that their comments are meant in a friendly or joking way.

emo·tion /iˈmouʃən/ *noun, pl -tions* : a strong feeling (such as love, anger, joy, hate, or fear) [count] He's always found it hard to express (his) *emotions*. [=to show his feelings] • strong/deep *emotions* • negative/positive *emotions* • I have *mixed emotions* [=mixed feelings] about doing this. [=I'm not sure if I want to do this or not] [noncount] He spoke with great *emotion*. [=passion] • a display of raw *emotion* • The defendant showed/displayed no *emotion* when the

verdict was read. • She was overcome with/by *emotion* at the news of her friend's death.

emo·tion·al /i'mouʃənəl/ *adj*

1 : relating to emotions • an *emotional* disorder
2 [*more ~; most ~*] **a** : likely to show or express emotion : easily upset, excited, etc. • He's a very *emotional* person. **b** : showing emotion — used especially to describe someone who is crying because of strong emotion • He tends to get *emotional* at weddings.

3 [*more ~; most ~*] : causing a person to feel emotion • He gave an *emotional* [=moving] speech. • an *emotional* experience • Abortion is an *emotional* issue. [=an issue that causes people to feel strong emotions]

— **emo·tion·al·ly** /i'mouʃənəli/ *adv* [*more ~; most ~*] • He wasn't *emotionally* ready to become a father. • an *emotionally* disturbed person

emo·tion·less /i'mouʃənləs/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] : showing, having, or expressing no emotion • She did her job with *emotionless* efficiency. • *emotionless* eyes

emo·tive /i'moutiv/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*]

1 : of or relating to emotions • *emotive* language
2 *Brit* : causing strong emotions for or against something • Abortion is a very *emotive* [= (US) *emotional*] issue.

empanel *variant spelling of* IMPANEL

em·pa·thize *also Brit em·pa·thise* /'empə,θaɪz/ *verb*
-thiz-es; -thized; -thiz-ing [*no obj*] : to have the same feelings as another person : to feel empathy for someone — often + *with* • He learned to *empathize* with the poor. — compare SYMPATHIZE

em·pa·thy /'empəθi/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the feeling that you understand and share another person's experiences and emotions • He felt great *empathy* with/for/toward the poor. : the ability to share someone else's feelings • His months spent researching prison life gave him greater *empathy* towards/for convicts. — compare SYMPATHY

em·per·or /'empərə/ *noun*, *pl* -ors [*count*] : a man who rules an empire • Roman *emperors* — compare EMPRESS

em·pha·sis /'emfəsəs/ *noun*, *pl* -pha·ses /-fə'si:z/

1 [*noncount*] : a forceful quality in the way something is said or written • You need to state your arguments with greater *emphasis*. [=state your arguments more forcefully]

2 [*noncount*] : added force that is given to a word or syllable when speaking • The *emphasis* [=stress] in the word "happiness" is on the first syllable.

3 : special importance or attention given to something [*noncount*] — usually + *on* • The *emphasis* in this drill is *on* using proper technique. • She puts/places/lays (particular/special/great) *emphasis on* developing good study habits. [*count*] Our candidate's plan has a different *emphasis*.

em·pha·size *also Brit em·pha·sise* /'emfə'saɪz/ *verb* -siz-es; -sized; -siz-ing [+ *obj*] : to give special attention to (something) : to place emphasis on (something) • Their father always *emphasized* [=stressed] the importance of discipline. [=always said that discipline was important] • He wanted to *emphasize* (to us) that he hadn't meant to offend anyone.

em·phat·ic /im'fætɪk/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*]

1 : said or done in a forceful or definite way • Her answer was an *emphatic* [=resounding] "Yes!" • a man with *emphatic* [=strong, definite] opinions • an *emphatic* victory

2 : speaking or acting in a forceful way • They were *emphatic* about their political differences.

— **em·phat·i·cal·ly** /im'fætɪkli/ *adv* • He declared *emphatically* [=forcefully] that he did not believe them. • This is *emphatically* [=definitely] not the right thing to do.

em·phy·se·ma /,emfə'zi:mə, *Brit* ,emfə'si:mə/ *noun* [*noncount*] *medical* : a disease in which the lungs become stretched and breathing becomes difficult

em·pire /'em,pajə/ *noun*, *pl* -pires [*count*]

1 : a group of countries or regions that are controlled by one ruler or one government; *especially* : a group of countries ruled by an emperor or empress • the Roman *Empire*

2 : a very large business or group of businesses under the control of one person or company • She built a tiny business into a worldwide *empire*. • He controlled a cattle *empire* in the heart of Texas. • a media *empire*

em·pir·i·cal /im'pɪrɪkəl/ *also* **em·pir·ic** /im'pɪrɪk/ *adj* : based on testing or experience • They collected plenty of *empirical* data/evidence from their experiments. • *empirical* laws

— **em·pir·i·cal·ly** /im'pɪrɪkli/ *adv* • Her theory had not yet been tested *empirically*.

em·pir·i·cism /im'pɪrɪsɪzəm/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the practice of basing ideas and theories on testing and experience

— **em·pir·i·cist** /im'pɪrɪsɪst/ *noun*, *pl* -cists [*count*]

em·place·ment /im'pleɪsmənt/ *noun*, *pl* -ments

1 [*count*] : a position that is specially prepared for a weapon • machine-gun *emplacements*

2 [*noncount*] : the act of putting something (such as a weapon) into position • secret *emplacement* of missiles on the island

¹em·ploy /im'plɔɪ/ *verb* -ploys; -ployed; -ploy-ing [+ *obj*]

1 *somewhat formal* **a** : to use (something) for a particular purpose or to do something • She *employed* [=used] a pen for sketching wildlife. • a method (widely/commonly/frequently) *employed to improve* garden soil • The company is accused of *employing* questionable methods to obtain the contract. **b** : to use or direct (something, such as your time or effort) in order to achieve a particular goal • You should find better ways to *employ* your time. • Your time could be better *employed* [=spent] in learning a new skill.

2 **a** : to use or get the services of (someone) to do a particular job • I had to *employ* a lawyer to review the contract. **b** : to provide (someone) with a job that pays wages or a salary • It's a small company, *employing* a staff of only 20. • He's *employed* by the local drugstore. [=he has a job at the local drugstore] • She hasn't been *gainfully employed* [=hasn't had a job that pays wages or a salary] for a few years. — often + *as* • She's been *employed as* a gardener for many years.

— **em·ploy·able** /im'plɔɪəbəl/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] • He lacks the skills needed to be *employable*.

²employ *noun*

in someone's employ formal : employed by someone for wages or a salary • The company has been generous to people *in their employ*. [=generous to their employees] • The defendant was at that time *in the employ of* [=employed by] a trucking company.

em·ploy·ee /im'plɔɪ'i:, im'plɔɪ,i:/ *noun*, *pl* -ees [*count*] : a person who works for another person or for a company for wages or a salary • A good boss listens to his *employees*. • The company has more than 2,000 *employees* worldwide. • *employee* benefits

em·ploy·er /im'plɔɪə/ *noun*, *pl* -ers [*count*] : a person or company that has people who do work for wages or a salary : a person or company that has employees • It was the *employer's* responsibility to improve workplace safety. • Your travel expenses should be paid for by your *employer*.

em·ploy·ment /im'plɔɪmənt/ *noun* [*noncount*]

1 : the act of employing someone or something: such as **a** : the act of using something • We object to the company's *employment* [=use, utilization] of pesticides. **b** : the act of paying someone to do a job • laws that have encouraged the *employment* of women

2 **a** : work that a person is paid to do • I've been looking for *employment* in the machine trade. • The new factory should provide *employment* for hundreds of workers. • unskilled workers trying to find paid/gainful *employment* • full-time/part-time *employment* • She hopes to find *employment* as a teacher. — often used before another noun • an *employment* contract • my *employment* history **b** : the state of being employed : the state of being paid to do a job • The magazine did well during the course of her *employment* as editor. **c** : the number of people who have jobs in a particular place or area • *Employment* is at an all-time high in this part of the state. **d** : jobs that are available for workers • The city is faced with inadequate housing and a lack of *employment*.

employment agency *noun*, *pl* ~ -cies [*count*] : a company whose business is to find jobs for people • He found work as a mechanic through an *employment agency*.

em·po·ri·um /im'porɪjəm/ *noun*, *pl* -po·ri·ums *also* -po·ria /-'porɪjə/ [*count*] *old-fashioned* : a store or shop • a furniture *emporium* • a men's clothing *emporium*

em·pow·er /im'paʊə/ *verb* -ers; -ered; -er-ing [+ *obj*]

1 : to give power to (someone) • seeking changes in the workplace that will *empower* women

2 : to give official authority or legal power to (someone) — followed by *to* + *verb* • Congress has *empowered* state legislatures to set educational standards. — often used as (be) *empowered* • His attorney was *empowered to act* on his behalf. — opposite DISEMPOWER

— **em·pow·er·ment** /im'paʊəmənt/ *noun* [*noncount*] • *empowerment* of women

em·press /'emprəs/ *noun*, *pl* -press·es [*count*]

1 : the wife or widow of an emperor • the Emperor and *Empress* of Japan

2 : a woman who rules an empire • Catherine the Great was *Empress* of Russia. — compare **EMPEROR**

emptor see **CAVEAT EMPTOR**

¹emp·ty /'empti/ *adj* **emp·ti·er; -est**

1 : containing nothing • The box was *empty*. • an *empty* beer can • vast *empty* spaces • *empty* shelves • This medication should not be taken *on an empty stomach*. [=you should eat something before taking this medication]

2 : not having any people : not occupied • an *empty* house • an *empty* beach/street • *empty* beds/seats • an *empty* factory • The arena was completely *empty*.

3 : having no real purpose or value • She felt trapped in an *empty* marriage. • unhappy people leading *empty* lives

4 : having no effect : not sincere or meaningful • an *empty* [=hollow, idle] threat • an *empty* promise • Her apology was just an *empty* gesture. • Their promises are just a lot of *empty* talk/words.

5 : not showing emotion or life • She looked at me with *empty* eyes. • a crowd of *empty* faces

come up empty see **¹COME**

empty of : completely without (something) • The arena was *empty of* spectators. • The streets are now *empty of* traffic.

— **emp·ti·ly** /'emptli/ *adv* • He stared *emptily* out the window. — **emp·ti·ness** /'emptinəs/ *noun* [noncount] • the *yast emptiness* of outer space

²empty *verb* **emp·ties; emp·tied; emp·ty·ing**

1 [+ *obj*] : to remove the contents of (something) : to make (something) empty • *empty* (out) a bag • She *emptied* her purse (out) onto the table. • The bomb threat *emptied* the crowded theater. [=caused everyone to leave the theater] • He *emptied* his glass. [=he drank everything that was in his glass] • She tried to *empty* her mind (of thoughts). • He *emptied* his gun. [=he shot all the bullets in his gun]

2 [+ *obj*] : to remove all of (something) from a container • She *emptied* the contents of her purse onto the table. • It's your turn to *empty* the trash.

3 [no *obj*] : to become empty • The theater *emptied* (out) quickly after the show.

empty into [*phrasal verb*] *empty into* (something) of a river, stream, etc. : to flow into (something) • The river *empties into* the Indian Ocean.

³empty *noun*, *pl* **empties** [count] : an empty bottle or can — usually plural • Return your *empties* here.

emp·ty·hand·ed /,empti'hændəd/ *adj* : without having, carrying, or bringing anything • I don't want to show up (at the party) *empty-handed*. • She came back (from the conference) *empty-handed*.

emp·ty·head·ed /,empti'hedəd/ *adj* [more ~; most ~] : not intelligent : STUPID • He thinks all athletes are just *empty-headed* jocks.

— **emp·ty·head·ed·ness** /,empti'hedədənəs/ *noun* [noncount]

empty nester *noun*, *pl* ~ **-ers** [count] : a parent whose children have grown up and moved away from home

EMT /,i:,em'ti:/ *noun*, *pl* **EMTs** or **EMT's** [count] : a person who is trained to provide emergency medical services to patients who are being taken to a hospital — called also *emergency medical technician*

emu /'i:mju, 'i:mu/ *noun*, *pl* **emus** [count] : an Australian bird that does not fly but is a very fast runner

em·u·late /'emjə,leɪt/ *verb* **-lates; -lat·ed; -lat·ing** [+ *obj*] : to try to be like (someone or something you admire) • She grew up *emulating* her sports heroes. • artists *emulating* the style of their teachers

— **em·u·la·tion** /,emjə'leɪʃən/ *noun* [noncount]

em·u·la·tor /'emjə,leɪtər/ *noun*, *pl* **-tors** [count]

1 : a person who tries to be like someone else • great artists and their *emulators* [=imitators]

2 *computers* : a program or device that permits programs written for one kind of computer to be used on another kind of computer

emul·si·fy /'mʌlsə,fai/ *verb* **-fies; -fied; -fy·ing** *technical* : to mix liquids together to form an emulsion [+ *obj*] *emulsify* oil and vinegar [no *obj*] mix the oil and vinegar until they *emulsify*

— **emul·si·fi·ca·tion** /,mʌlsəfə'keɪʃən/ *noun* [noncount]

— **emul·si·fi·er** /'mʌlsə,fajər/ *noun*, *pl* **-ers** [count, noncount]

emul·sion /'mʌlʃən/ *noun*, *pl* **-sions** [count] *technical*

1 : a mixture of liquids ✧ In an emulsion, small drops of one

liquid are mixed throughout another liquid. • an *emulsion* of oil in water

2 : a thin coating on photographic film or paper that contains chemicals which are sensitive to light

en- /ɪn/ *also* **em-** /ɪm/ *prefix* ✧ In all senses *em-* is usually used before words starting with *b*, *m*, or *p*.

1 : to put into or onto • *encode* • *endanger* • *enthron* • *em-bed*

2 : to cause to be • *enrich* • *enslave*

3 : to provide with • *empower* • *embody*

4 : to cover with • *enshroud*

5 : thoroughly • *ensnare* • *entangle*

¹-en /ən/ *adj* *suffix* : made of : consisting of • *earthen* • *woolen*

²-en *verb* *suffix*

1 : to become or cause to be • *sharpen* • *whiten* • *sadden* • *broaden*

2 : to cause or come to have • *lengthen* • *strengthen*

en·able /'neɪbəl/ *verb* **-ables; -abled; -abling** [+ *obj*]

1 a : to make (someone or something) able to do or to be something • The machine *enables* us to create copies without losing quality. • The system *enables* students to access class materials online. • These choices are part of what *enabled* the company to be successful. **b** : to make (something) possible, practical, or easy • a filing system that *enables* easy access to information • The proposed tax will *enable* [=facilitate] the hiring of more police officers.

2 technical : to cause (a feature or capability of a computer) to be active or available for use • Be sure to *enable* your computer's firewall. — often used in combination • a wireless-*enabled* laptop [=a laptop that is able to send and receive wireless signals]

en·act /'nækt/ *verb* **-acts; -act·ed; -act·ing** [+ *obj*]

1 somewhat formal : to perform (something, such as a scene in a play) • We will *enact* [=act out] parts of three plays.

2 : to make (a bill or other legislation) officially become part of the law • Congress will *enact* legislation related to that issue. • The law was finally *enacted* today.

— **en·act·ment** /'næktmənt/ *noun*, *pl* **-ments** [noncount]

The *enactment* [=passage] of this law will save lives. [count] legislative *enactments*

enam·el /'næməl/ *noun*, *pl* **-els**

1 a : a material like colored glass that is heated until it is liquid and then used to decorate the surface of metal, glass, or pottery [noncount] The tea set is decorated with *enamel*. [count] an artist who works with *enamels* **b** [count] : something decorated with enamel • The museum has a fine collection of *enamels*.

2 [noncount] : the very hard outer layer of a tooth

3 : a kind of paint that is shiny and very hard when it dries [noncount] We painted the doors with *enamel* (paint). [count] *enamels* and acrylics

— **enam·eled** (US) or *Brit* **enam·elled** /'næməld/ *adj* • colorful *enameled* jewelry [=jewelry that is decorated with enamel] • an *enameled* pot

enam·e·ling (US) or *Brit* **enam·el·ling** /'næməlɪŋ/ *noun* [noncount]

1 : decoration done with enamel • The box was covered with elaborate *enameling*. • The *enameling* on the teapot is beautiful.

2 : the act or technique of decorating things with enamel • He studied *enameling* with a master craftsman.

en·am·or (US) or *Brit* **en·am·our** /'næmə/ *verb* **-ors; -ored; -or·ing** [+ *obj*] : to cause (someone) to be loved or admired — usually used in negative statements; usually + *to* • His bad temper did not *enamor* [=endear] him to his employees. [=his bad temper made his employees dislike him]

enamored (US) or *Brit* **enamoured** *adj* [more ~; most ~] : in a state in which you love, admire, or are very interested in something or someone • the movie star's *enamored* fans — usually + *of* or *with* • I became completely *enamored of* [=fascinated with] the island and its people. • He was *enamored with* her [=in love with her] from the day they met. • She is less than *enamored with* her new job. [=she does not like it]

en bloc /ən'blɑ:k/ *adv*, chiefly *Brit* : as or in a united group : all together • The amendments were accepted *en bloc*.

enc. *abbr* enclosure

en·camp /ɪn'kæmp/ *verb* **-camps; -camped; -camp·ing** *formal* : to set up and use a camp [no *obj*] Napoleon's troops *encamped* there. [+ *obj*] — usually used as (be) *encamped* • the location where Napoleon's troops were *encamped* • Refugees are *encamped* along the border. — sometimes used figuratively • Reporters were *encamped* [(more commonly)

camped out] in front of the courthouse.

– **en-camp-ment** /ɪnˈkæmpmənt/ *noun*, *pl* -ments [count]

• a military *encampment*

en-cap-su-late /ɪnˈkæpsəleɪt/ *verb* -lates; -lat-ed; -lat-ing [+ *obj*]

1 : to show or express the main idea or quality of (something) in a brief way • a phrase that perfectly *encapsulates* [=sums up] my feelings about the day • The first song *encapsulates* [=captures] the mood of the whole album.

2 : to completely cover (something) especially so that it will not touch anything else • The contaminated material should be *encapsulated* and removed.

– **en-cap-su-la-tion** /ɪnˈkæpsəˈleɪʃən/ *noun*, *pl* -tions [count] The book is an *encapsulation* of the history of marathons. [noncount] a complex subject that resists *encapsulation*

en-case /ɪnˈkeɪs/ *verb* -cas-es; -cas-ed; -cas-ing [+ *obj*]
: to completely cover (something) • Ice *encased* the trees and power lines after the storm. — often used as (be) *encased* • The package is *encased* in plastic. • His feet were *encased* in heavy boots.

– **-ence** /əns/ *noun* suffix

1 : the state of having a particular quality • confidence • dependence • despondence

2 : the action or process of doing something • emergence • reference • reminiscence

en-chant /ɪnˈtʃænt, Brit ɪnˈtʃɑːnt/ *verb* -chants; -chant-ed; -chant-ing

1 : to attract and hold the attention of (someone) by being interesting, pretty, etc. [+ *obj*] The book has *enchanted* children for almost a century. — often used as (be) *enchanted* • Visitors will *be enchanted* [=captivated, charmed] by the beauty of the place. [no *obj*] The beauty of the place *enchants*.

2 [+ *obj*] : to put a magic spell on (someone or something) • a tale about a wizard who *enchants* [=bewitches] a princess

– **enchanted** *adj* • It's a beautiful, *enchanted* [=enchanting, captivating] place. • The story takes place in an *enchanted* forest. — **enchanted** *adj* [more ~; most ~] • an *enchanted* book • the *enchanted* beauty of the place — **en-chant-ing-ly** *adv* • an *enchantingly* beautiful place

en-chant-er /ɪnˈtʃæntə, Brit ɪnˈtʃɑːntə/ *noun*, *pl* -ers [count]

: a person who uses spells or magic : a sorcerer or wizard

en-chant-ment /ɪnˈtʃæntmənt, Brit ɪnˈtʃɑːntmənt/ *noun*, *pl* -ments

1 [noncount] : a feeling of being attracted by something interesting, pretty, etc. : the state of being enchanted • Our *enchantment* faded when we found that the house needed even more repairs. — often + *with* • My *enchantment* [=fascination] *with* the place continues to grow. — compare **DIS-EN-CHANTMENT**

2 : a quality that attracts and holds your attention by being interesting, pretty, etc. [noncount] the *enchantment* of a snowy field bathed in moonlight [count] He writes about the dangers as well as the *enchantments* of sailing.

3 [count] : a magic spell • stories about wizards and *enchantments*

en-chant-ress /ɪnˈtʃæntres, Brit ɪnˈtʃɑːntres/ *noun*, *pl* -ress-es [count]

1 : a woman who uses spells or magic : a sorceress or witch

2 : a very interesting or beautiful woman

en-chi-la-da /ˌɛntʃəˈlɑːdə/ *noun*, *pl* -das [count] : a Mexican food that consists of a flat piece of bread (called a tortilla) that is rolled around a meat, bean, or cheese filling and covered with a sauce

the big enchilada *US, informal* : the most important issue, person, etc. • She's won many awards for her writing in the past, but this one is *the big enchilada*.

the whole enchilada *US, informal* : the entire thing : EVERYTHING • The celebration included music, food, fireworks—the *whole enchilada*. • The team may win *the whole enchilada* [=the championship] this year.

en-cir-cle /ɪnˈsəkel/ *verb* -cir-cles; -cir-cled; -cir-cling [+ *obj*] : to form a circle around (someone or something) • A fence *encircles* the field. = The field is *encircled* by a fence. : to surround (someone or something) • A crowd of reporters *encircled* the mayor.

encl. *abbr* enclosure

en-clave /ˈɛnˌklɛv, ˈɑːnˌklɛv/ *noun*, *pl* -claves [count] : an area with people who are different in some way from the people in the areas around it • The city has a large Chinese *enclave*. [=an area where many Chinese people live] • one of

the city's wealthy *enclaves* [=one of the areas in the city where only wealthy people can afford to live]

en-close /ɪnˈkloʊz/ *verb* -clos-es; -closed; -clos-ing [+ *obj*]

1 **a** : to surround (something) • High walls *enclose* the courtyard. = The courtyard is *enclosed* by high walls. • The pie's flaky crust *encloses* a fruit filling. **b** : to put something around (something) • We want to *enclose* the porch [=build walls around the porch] and use it as a dining room. • *En-close* the fish in foil and bake.

2 : to include (something) with a letter or in a package • She *enclosed* a photo with the card. • Please *enclose* a check with your application. • *Enclosed* with this letter are the tickets you ordered.

– **enclosed** *adj* • an *enclosed* porch/courtyard • The *enclosed* tickets are for you.

en-clo-sure /ɪnˈkloʊzər/ *noun*, *pl* -sures

1 [count] : an area that is surrounded by a wall, fence, etc. : an enclosed space • During the day the horses are kept in an *enclosure*. • a garden *enclosure*

2 [count] : something that is included with a letter or in a package • a letter with two *enclosures* • One of the *enclosures* was a photograph. — *abbr.* *enc.* or *encl.*

3 [noncount] : the act of enclosing something • the *enclosure* of a photograph with a letter • the *enclosure* of the garden

en-code /ɪnˈkoud/ *verb* -codes; -cod-ed; -cod-ing [+ *obj*]

1 : to put (a message) into the form of a code so that it can kept secret : CODE • an *encoded* message — compare **DE-CODE**

2 : to put information in the form of a code on (something) • Credit cards are *encoded* with cardholder information.

3 : to change (information) into a set of letters, numbers, or symbols that can be read by a computer • a technology that *encodes* images/files

– **en-cod-er** *noun*, *pl* -ers [count]

en-com-pass /ɪnˈkɑmpəs/ *verb* -pass-es; -passed; -pass-ing [+ *obj*]

1 : to include (something) as a part • My interests *encompass* [=cover, include] a broad range of topics. • The district *encompasses* most of the downtown area. — see also **ALL-ENCOMPASSING**

2 : to cover or surround (an area) • A thick fog *encompassed* [=enveloped] the city. • a neighborhood *encompassed* by a highway

¹**encore** /ˈɑːnˌkoʊ/ *interj* — used by an audience to call for another song, dance, etc., when a performance has ended • The audience shouted “*Encore!*” as the singer left the stage.

²**encore** *noun*, *pl* **en-cores** [count]

1 : an extra piece of music performed in response to a request from the audience • He sang a folk song as/for an *encore*.

2 : something that follows a success • Her first novel was a best seller—but what is she going to do for an *encore*?

¹**en-coun-ter** /ɪnˈkaʊntə/ *verb* -ters; -tered; -ter-ing [+ *obj*]

1 : to have or experience (problems, difficulties, etc.) • We *encountered* problems early in the project. • The pilot told us that we might *encounter* turbulence during the flight. • Her suggestion has *encountered* a lot of opposition.

2 *formal* : to meet (someone) without expecting or intending to • I *encountered* [=ran into] an old friend on a recent business trip.

²**encounter** *noun*, *pl* -ters [count]

1 a : a meeting that is not planned or expected • an accidental *encounter* • a chance *encounter* with a famous writer **b** : a usually brief experience with another person • a brief/painful *encounter* • He's accused of having had sexual *encounters* with several young women. • They had a *romantic encounter* [=a brief romantic relationship] several years ago. **c** : a violent or very unfriendly meeting • Two protesters were arrested during an *encounter* [=clash] with police. • There was a violent *encounter* between fans of the opposing teams.

2 : an occasion when you deal with or experience something • It was her first *encounter* with cigarettes. ♡ To have a *close encounter* with something is to come very close to being hurt or damaged by it. • The island has had several *close encounters* with major hurricanes in recent years.

en-cour-age /ɪnˈkʌrɪdʒ/ *verb* -ag-es; -aged; -ag-ing [+ *obj*]

1 : to make (someone) more determined, hopeful, or confident • They *encouraged* us in our work. • *Encourage* each

other with kind words. — often used as *(be) encouraged* • We were encouraged by their enthusiasm. • Researchers are encouraged by the findings. • I am encouraged that the project seems to be moving ahead. — sometimes followed by *to + verb* • We were encouraged to learn of their enthusiasm. — opposite DISCOURAGE

2 a : to make (something) more appealing or more likely to happen • The program is meant to encourage savings. • Warm weather encourages plant growth. • He claims the new regulations will encourage investment. **b** : to make (someone) more likely to do something • He claims the new regulations will encourage people to invest. • We want to encourage students to read more. : to tell or advise (someone) to do something • My parents encouraged me to go back to college. • They encouraged her to go. — opposite DISCOURAGE
— **encouraged** *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] • Our early success left us feeling hopeful and encouraged.

en-cour-age-ment /in'kʌrɪdʒmənt/ *noun, pl -ments*
1 [*noncount*] : the act of making something more appealing or more likely to happen • Our aim is the encouragement of investment. • the encouragement of plant growth
2 a : something that makes someone more determined, hopeful, or confident [*noncount*] teachers who give their students a lot of encouragement • words of encouragement • With support and encouragement from their parents, the students organized a fundraiser. [*count*] kind words and encouragements **b** [*count*] : something that makes someone more likely to do something • They offered him gifts of money and other encouragements.

en-cour-ag-ing /in'kʌrɪdʒɪŋ/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] : causing a hopeful feeling • We've just heard some encouraging news. • an encouraging smile — opposite DISCOURAGING
— **en-cour-ag-ing-ly** *adv* • She smiled encouragingly at the new student.

en-croach /in'krouʃ/ *verb -crouch-es; -crouched; -crouch-ing* [*no obj*]
1 : to gradually move or go into an area that is beyond the usual or desired limits • The suburbs encroach further into the rural areas each year. — usually + *on* or *upon* • People are encroaching on the animal's habitat. • The ocean is slowly encroaching upon the shoreline.
2 : to gradually take or begin to use or affect something that belongs to someone else or that someone else is using — usually + *on* or *upon* • He argues that the law would encroach on/upon states' authority. • The new company is encroaching on their traditional market.
— **en-croach-ment** /in'krouʃmənt/ *noun, pl -ments* [*noncount*] the gradual encroachment of the ocean [*count*] the encroachments of neighboring countries

en-crust /in'krʌstəd/ *adj* : coated or covered with something • The crown is encrusted with jewels. • mud-encrusted shoes

en-crypt /in'kript/ *verb -crypts; -crypt-ed; -crypt-ing* [*+ obj*] : to change (information) from one form to another especially to hide its meaning • The software will encrypt the message before it is sent. • The passwords are encrypted.

en-cum-ber /in'kʌmbə/ *verb -bers; -bered; -ber-ing* [*+ obj*] *somewhat formal*
1 : to make (someone or something) hold or carry something heavy — usually used as *(be) encumbered* • We were encumbered by our heavy coats and boots. • encumbered [=burdened] by equipment and supplies — often used figuratively • The company is encumbered with debt.
2 : to cause problems or difficulties for (someone or something) • These rules will only encumber the people we're trying to help. • Lack of funding has encumbered the project. — usually used as *(be) encumbered* • Peace talks have been encumbered by a mutual lack of trust.
— **en-cum-brance** /in'kʌmbrəns/ *noun, pl -branc-es* [*count*] • the encumbrances of equipment and supplies • These rules will only be an encumbrance.

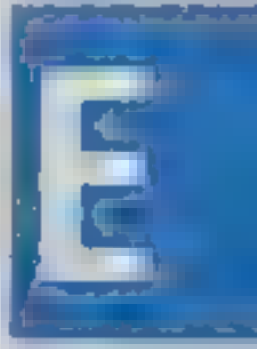
-en-cy /ənsi/ *noun suffix* : the quality or state of being (something) — used to form nouns from adjectives that end in *-ent* • dependency • efficiency • frequency

en-cyc-li-cal /in'sɪklɪkəl/ *noun, pl -cals* [*count*] : an official letter from the Pope to the Roman Catholic bishops

en-cy-clo-pe-dia also **en-cy-clo-pae-dia** /in,sɑɪklə'pi:dɪə/ *noun, pl -pe-dias* also *-pae-dias* [*count*] : a reference work (such as a book, series of books, Web site, or CD-ROM) that contains information about many different subjects or a lot of information about a particular subject • a general encyclopedia • an encyclopedia of literature

en-cy-clo-pe-dic also **en-cy-clo-pae-dic** /in,sɑɪklə'pi:dɪk/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] : dealing with or knowing a subject thoroughly or completely • She published an encyclopedic study of ancient Egypt. • The event was described in encyclopedic detail. • his almost encyclopedic knowledge of movies

¹end /'end/ *noun, pl ends*
1 [*singular*] **a** : a point that marks the limit of something : the point at which something no longer continues to happen or exist • The report is due at/by the end of the month. • She interviewed several players at the end of the game. • There is no end [=limit] to their generosity. [=they are extremely generous] • I'm at the end of my patience. = I've reached the end of my patience. [=I can no longer be patient; I have run out of patience] **b** : the last part of a story, movie, song, etc. • I liked most of the book, but I didn't like the end. [=ending] • He read the book from beginning to end [=he read the entire book] in one day.
2 [*count*] **a** : the part at the edge or limit of an area • The restaurant is in the north end of the city. • We biked from one end of the island to the other. • The house is at the end of the road. • They live at opposite ends of town. • He left the car at the far end [=most distant part] of the parking lot. • the deep/shallow end of a swimming pool — see also DEAD END, REAR END **b** : the first or last part or section of something that is long • She drove the end of the stake into the ground. • The car's front/rear/back end was damaged. • One end of the rope was tangled. • Smoke curled off the end of the cigarette. • The hose is leaking at both ends. • the pointed end of the knife **c** : either limit of a scale or range • The car was in the high/low end of the price range. • The candidates represent opposite ends of the political spectrum. • The resort attracts tourists from the upper end of the social scale.
3 [*count*] : the stopping of a condition, activity, or course of action • The agency's goal is the end of world hunger. • The treaty marked the end of the war. • His death marks the end of an era. ✧ When something is at an end it is finished or completed. • The battle was at an end. [=over] • We would like to see this matter at an end. ✧ If you bring something to an end or bring an end to something, you stop, finish, or complete it. • She brought the concert to an end with a piano solo. • Negotiations brought an end to the conflict. ✧ If you put an end to something, you cause it to stop or prevent it from continuing. • They promise to put an end to unfair policies. • The new mayor vowed to put an end to the violence. ✧ Something comes to an end when it stops or finishes. • After three weeks the strike finally came to an end. • Summer always seems to come to an end much too quickly. • The curtain fell as the play came to an end. ✧ If there is no end in sight, the point at which something will be finished is not known. • There is no end in sight to this heat wave. • Prices continue to go up with no end in sight.
4 [*count*] : the point at which someone is no longer living : DEATH • He came to a tragic end [=he died] in a freak accident. • The doctors told her that the end was near. [=that she would die soon] — sometimes used with *meet* • He met his end [=he died] in the icy water. • She met an untimely end.
5 [*count*] : a goal or purpose • Our ultimate end [=aim] in sponsoring the event is to raise money for charity. • corrupt leaders who use their power for their own ends • There are several ways to achieve/accomplish the same end. ✧ If something is an end in itself, it is something that you do because you want to and not because it will help you achieve or accomplish something else. • She started exercising for her health, but she enjoyed it so much that exercising became an end in itself. • For him, taking classes was an end in itself. ✧ If the end justifies the means, a desired result is so good or important that any method, even a morally bad one, may be used to achieve it. • They believe that the end justifies the means and will do anything to get their candidate elected.
6 [*count*] **American football** : a player whose position is at the end of the line of scrimmage — see also END RUN, SPLIT ENDS, TIGHT END
7 [*count*] : a specific part of a project, activity, etc. • She is in the creative end of the business. • It's important to know what's going on in all ends of a business; especially : the part of a project, activity, etc., that you are responsible for • Let me know if you have any problems at your end. — usually used with *keep up* or *hold up* • He promised to keep up his end of the agreement. [=he promised to do what he had agreed to do] • You can count on her to hold up her end. [=to do what she is supposed to do]
8 [*count*] : any one of the places connected by a telephone



call • She picked up the phone and heard an unfamiliar voice at the other *end*. • I can't hear you very well—there is a lot of noise at this *end*.

9 ends [plural] : parts of something that are left after the main part has been used • a quilt made from bits and *ends* of fabric — see also LOOSE END, ODDS AND ENDS

a light at the end of the tunnel see ¹LIGHT

at the end of the day informal : when all things are considered : in the end • It was a difficult decision, but *at the end of the day*, we knew we made the right choice.

at (your) wits'/wit's end see WIT

burn the candle at both ends see ¹BURN

come to a bad end **1** : to end up in a bad situation because of your actions • If he keeps living this way he's sure to *come to a bad end*. **2** : to die in an unpleasant way • According to legend, more than one person *came to a bad end* because of her.

end to end : with ends touching each other • Put the two small tables *end to end*. • railroad cars lined up *end to end*

go off the deep end see ¹DEEP

in the end **1** : finally or after a long time • We worked hard, and *in the end* [=ultimately], we achieved our goal. **2** : when all things are considered • He thought about moving to the city, but *in the end*, decided to stay where he was. • *In the end*, what really matters in a relationship is trust.

make ends meet : to pay for the things that you need to live when you have little money • We had a hard time *making ends meet*.

make your hair stand on end see HAIR

never/not hear the end of it see HEAR

not the end of the world informal ♦ If something is *not the end of the world*, it is not as terrible or unpleasant as it seems to be. • It *won't be the end of the world* if it rains on the day of the wedding. • Losing your job does *not* have to be *the end of the world*.

on end **1** : without interruption • For days *on end* [=for many days] she didn't answer the phone. **2** : in an upright position : not lying flat • We set the bricks *on end* around the garden. • His skis stood *on end* in the corner.

on/at the receiving end see RECEIVE

the end of the line or the end of the road informal : the point or time when someone or something stops or cannot continue : the end • A loss in the primary elections will mean *the end of the road* for his campaign. • It will be *the end of the line* for me unless there are some changes around here. • They reached *the end of the road* as a couple [=their relationship was over] a long time ago.

the end of time : FOREVER, ALWAYS — used figuratively after *to*, *till*, or *until* • He promised to love her *to the end of time*. • Their heroism will be remembered *until the end of time*.

the end of your rope or chiefly Brit the end of your tether informal : a state in which you are not able to deal with a problem, difficult situation, etc., any longer • It was clear from her outburst that she was at *the end of her rope*. • I've been dealing with their lies for too long. I'm at the *end of my rope*.

the ends of the earth : places in the world that are very far away from cities, large groups of people, etc. : the most remote places in the world — used figuratively • He would go to *the ends of the earth* [=he would do anything] to please her. • We will search *the ends of the earth* [=everywhere; for a long time] if we have to.

the short end of the stick see ¹STICK

the wrong end of the stick see ¹STICK

(to) no end : a lot : a great deal • It pleases me *to no end* [=very much] to see you so happy. • We've had *no end* of trouble finding somewhere to live.

to that/this end formal : as a way of dealing with or doing something • We want to save the building. *To this end*, we have hired someone to assess its current state.

to/till/until the bitter end see ¹BITTER

²end verb **ends; end-ed; end-ing**

1 a [no obj] : to stop or finish : to no longer continue to happen or exist • The meeting *ended* [=concluded] at noon. • The line of people *ended* around the corner. • The road *ends* at the top of the hill. • As soon as school *ends* [= (Brit) breaks up] she'll start her summer job. • The demonstration *ended* peacefully. • The meeting *ended* on a positive note. • She started out poor but *ended* (up) a rich woman. **b** [+ obj] : to stop or finish (something) : to cause (something) to no longer continue to happen or exist • They *ended* [=concluded] the meeting at noon. • The allegations could *end* his career. • Her

speech *ended* the convention. • The argument *ended* their friendship. • The company claims that its new product will be a/the computer *to end all* computers. [=a computer that is the ultimate or perfect computer] • World War I was supposed to be the war *to end all* wars. : to come to the end of (something) • She *ended* her career (as) a rich woman. [=she was rich at the end of her career] • He *ended* his life/days (living) in a nursing home. [=he spent the last part of his life in a nursing home]

2 [+ obj] : to be the final part of (something) • The letters "ing" *end* the word "going." • A wedding scene *ends* the film. • A marching band will *end* the parade. • Her speech will *end* the convention.

end in [phrasal verb] **end in (something)** : to have (something) at the end • The word *ends in* a suffix. [=the last part of the word is a suffix] • The knife *ends in* a sharp point. • Their marriage *ended in* divorce. • The race *ended in* a tie. • The demonstration *ended in* chaos.

end up [phrasal verb] **end up or end up (something) or end up (doing something)** : to reach or come to a place, condition, or situation that was not planned or expected • The book *ended up* in the trash. • He didn't want to *end up* [=wind up] like his father. • She *ended up* rich. = She *ended up* a rich woman. • He *ended up* (living) in a nursing home. • The movie we wanted to see was sold out so we *ended up* seeing a different one.

end with [phrasal verb] **1 end with (something)** : to have (something) at the end • The film *ends with* a wedding scene. [=the last part of the film is a wedding scene] • The convention will *end with* her speech. • The parade will *end with* a marching band. **2 end (something) with (something)** : to cause (something) to have (something) at the end • She will *end* the convention *with* her speech. [=the convention will be over after her speech] • He *ended* the concert *with* one of his new songs.

end your life or end it all : to kill yourself : to commit suicide • He tried to *end his life* by taking an overdose of pills. • She thought about *ending it all* after her baby died.

³end adj, always used before a noun : ¹FINAL • the *end* product/result of a process • the *end* point/stage of the operation — see also END USER

en·dan·ger /ɪn'deɪndʒə/ verb **-gers; -gered; -ger-ing** /ɪn'deɪndʒərɪŋ/ [+ obj] : to cause (someone or something) to be in a dangerous place or situation • Parents feared that the dog could *endanger* their children. • The severe drought has *endangered* crops throughout the area. • The controversy *endangered* [=threatened] his chances for reelection. ♦ In the U.S., if you drive in a way that is not safe the police may officially accuse you of *driving to endanger*.

endangered adj [more ~; most ~] — used to describe a type of animal or plant that has become very rare and that could die out completely • *endangered* plants • Two more species have been added to the *endangered list* [=a list of plant and animal species that are protected by law because there are very few of them] • The bald eagle is no longer considered an *endangered species* [=a species that is in danger of becoming extinct] — sometimes used figuratively • She claims that honest politicians are an *endangered species*.

en·dear /ɪn'diə/ verb **-dears; -deared; -dear-ing**

endear to [phrasal verb] **endear (someone) to (someone or something)** : to cause (someone) to be loved or admired by (someone or something) • They *endeared* themselves to the whole town. • His generosity has *endeared* him to the public. [=the people in his country, city, etc., love and admire him because he is generous] • Her bad temper did not *endear* her to her coworkers. [=her bad temper made it difficult for people to like her]

— **endearing** adj [more ~; most ~] • Good humor is one of your most *endearing* traits. — **en·dear·ing·ly** adv [more ~; most ~] • an *endearingly* good-humored person

en·dear·ment /ɪn'diəmənt/ noun, pl **-ments** [count] : a word or phrase that shows love or affection • two lovers whispering *endearments* to each other ♦ A special word or name that friends or lovers use when they speak to each other is sometimes called a *term of endearment*. • "honey," "sweetie," and other *terms of endearment*

¹en·deav·or (US) or Brit **en·deav·our** /ɪn'devə/ verb **-ors; -ored; -or-ing** [+ obj] formal : to seriously or continually try to do (something) • The school *endeavors to teach* students to be good citizens. • They *endeavored to create* a government that truly serves its people. **synonyms** see ¹ATTEMPT

²endeavor (US) or Brit **endeavour** noun, pl **-ors** formal : a

serious effort or attempt [*count*] His *endeavors* have gone unrewarded. • He failed despite his best *endeavors*. [=efforts] • She is involved in several artistic *endeavors*. [*noncount*] Technology is the fastest-changing area/field of human *endeavor*.

en•dem•ic /ɛn'dɛmɪk/ *adj*

1 : growing or existing in a certain place or region • *endemic diseases* • *endemic wildlife* — often + *to* or *in* • A wide variety of animal and plant species are *endemic to* this area. • The disease is *endemic in* parts of northern Europe.

2 : common in a particular area or field — often + *to* or *in* • A distrust of strangers is *endemic in/to* this community. • Sentimentality is *endemic to* that style of writing.

en•ding /'ɛndɪŋ/ *noun, pl -ings* [*count*]

1 : the final part of something • The movie has a happy *ending*. [=end, conclusion] • I didn't like the book's *ending*.

2 : a letter or group of letters added to the end of a word : SUFFIX • Common verb *endings* in English are “-s,” “-ed,” and “-ing.” • You can often recognize an English adverb by its “-ly” *ending*.

en•dive /'ɛn,darv, ˌɑ:n'di:v/ *noun, pl -dives* [*count, non-count*]

1 : a plant with curly green leaves that are eaten raw

2 *US* : BELGIAN ENDIVE

en•less /'ɛndləs/ *adj* : having no end : seeming to have no end : lasting or taking a long time • We endured *endless* meetings. • The flight seemed *endless*. • There was an *endless* line at the bank. • There is *endless* work to do on the house. — *en•less•ly* *adv* • She talks about it *endlessly*. — *en•less•ness* *noun* [*noncount*]

en•dorse also in•dorse /ɪn'doəs/ *verb -dors•es; -dorsed; -dors•ing* [+ *obj*]

1 : to publicly or officially say that you support or approve of (someone or something) • The newspaper has *endorsed* the conservative candidate for mayor. • The committee must *endorse* [=approve] the decision. • We do not *endorse* their position.

2 : to publicly say that you like or use (a product or service) in exchange for money • She *endorses* a line of clothing. • That brand of sneaker is *endorsed* by several basketball stars.

3 : to write your name on the back of (a check) • You must *endorse* the check before you deposit it in the bank.

4 *Brit* : to put information about a driving offense on (a person's driver's license) — usually used as (*be*) *endorsed* • His driving license was *endorsed* for speeding.

— *en•dors•er* *noun, pl -ers* [*count*]

en•dorse•ment also in•dorse•ment /ɪn'doəsmənt/ *noun, pl -ments* : the act or result of endorsing someone or something: such as **a** : a public or official statement of support or approval [*count*] The newspaper has announced its political *endorsements*. • We're pleased that the project has received your *endorsement*. [*noncount*] Without official *endorsement*, the project cannot proceed. **b** [*count*] : the act of publicly saying that you like or use a product or service in exchange for money • Many retired athletes are able to make a lot of money by doing product *endorsements*. **c** [*count*] : the act or result of writing your name on the back of a check • The bank requires that someone witness the *endorsement* of the check. • We need your *endorsement* before we can cash this check. **d** *Brit* : the act or result of putting information about a driving offense on a person's driver's license [*noncount*] the *endorsement* of a license [*count*] receive/get an *endorsement* for speeding

en•dow /ɪn'dau/ *verb -dows; -dowed; -dow•ing* [+ *obj*]

1 : to give a large amount of money to a school, hospital, etc., in order to pay for the creation or continuing support of (something) • The wealthy couple *endowed* a new wing of the hospital. • She plans to *endow* a faculty position at the university. • The money will be used to *endow* the museum and research facility.

2 : to freely or naturally provide (someone or something) with something — usually used as (*be*) *endowed* • Human beings are *endowed with* reason. [=they naturally have reason; they are naturally able to think in a logical way] • The country is richly *endowed with* mineral deposits. • “... all men ... are *endowed by* their Creator with certain unalienable rights ...” —*U.S. Declaration of Independence* (1776) — see also WELL-ENDOWED

en•dow•ment /ɪn'daʊmənt/ *noun, pl -ments*

1 a [*count*] : a large amount of money that has been given to a school, hospital, etc., and that is used to pay for its creation and continuing support • The hospital's *endowment* was es-

tablished by a local family. • The college has a large *endowment*. • an *endowment* fund **b** : the act of providing money to create or support a school, organization, etc. [*noncount*] the *endowment* of a hospital wing [*count*] generous *endowments*

2 [*count*] : a person's natural ability or talent • an athlete's physical *endowments*

end run *noun, pl ~ runs* [*count*] *American football* : a play in which the player carrying the ball tries to run around the line of defensive players — often used figuratively in U.S. English to describe a secret or dishonest attempt to avoid a rule, problem, etc. • They tried to *make/do an end run around* the law but they failed.

end table *noun, pl ~ tables* [*count*] *US* : a small table next to a sofa or chair — see picture at LIVING ROOM

en•dur•ance /ɪn'dʊərəns, Brit ɪn'djuərəns/ *noun* [*noncount*]

1 a : the ability to do something difficult for a long time • The exercise program is designed to increase both strength and *endurance*. • a test of *endurance* = an *endurance* test [=a task that tests your ability to do something difficult for a long time] • *endurance* training **b** : the ability to deal with pain or suffering that continues for a long time • The overseas flight tested our (powers of) *endurance*. • children who are teased *beyond endurance* [=for such a long time or to such a great degree that they can no longer deal with it]

2 : the quality of continuing for a long time • We need to assure the *endurance* [=survival] of this tradition.

en•dure /ɪn'dʊə, Brit ɪn'djuə/ *verb -dures; -dured; -dur•ing*

1 [*no obj*] : to continue to exist in the same state or condition • This tradition has *endured* [=lasted] for centuries. • She wants to make sure her legacy will *endure*.

2 [+ *obj*] **a** : to experience (pain or suffering) for a long time • The refugees have *endured* [=suffered] more hardship than most people can imagine. • He *endured* five years as a prisoner of war. **b** : to deal with or accept (something unpleasant) • We *endured* the lecture for as long as we could. — often used in negative statements • I cannot *endure* [=more commonly] *stand*] the sound of her voice. • I refuse to *endure* [=more commonly] *put up with, stand for*] such behavior any longer.

— *en•dur•able* /ɪn'dʊərəbəl, Brit ɪn'djuərəbəl/ *adj* • Such behavior is no longer *endurable*. [=it is unendurable]

— *enduring* *adj* • *enduring* [=lasting] friendships • an *enduring* tradition/legacy — *en•dur•ing•ly* *adv* • an *enduringly* popular tradition

end user *noun, pl ~ users* [*count*] : the person who will eventually use a product • Programmers should always keep the *end user* in mind when designing a new piece of software.

end zone *noun, pl ~ zones* [*count*] : the area beyond the goal line at each end of the field in American football

en•e•ma /'ɛnəmə/ *noun, pl -mas* [*count*] *medical* : a procedure in which liquid is forced into the intestines through the anus in order to make solid waste pass from the body • The nurse gave the patient an *enema*.; also : the liquid that is used for an enema

en•e•my /'ɛnəmi/ *noun, pl -mies* [*count*]

1 : someone who hates another : someone who attacks or tries to harm another • They are sworn/bitter *enemies*. • He made a lot of *enemies* during the course of his career. ♦ If you are *your own worst enemy* you act in a way that causes harm to yourself or to the people or things that you care about.

2 : something that harms or threatens someone or something • Tradition is the *enemy* of progress. • In many countries today, drug abuse is *public enemy number one*. [=the most dangerous threat to society]

3 a : a group of people (such as a nation) against whom another group is fighting a war — usually singular • Some of the soldiers went over to the *enemy*. • He found himself behind *enemy* lines. • The plane was shot down by *enemy* fire. **b** : a military force, a ship, or a person belonging to the other side in a war — usually singular • They targeted the *enemy* at close range.

en•er•get•ic /,ɛnə'dʒetɪk/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*]

1 : having or showing a lot of energy • She has an *energetic* personality. • The children are *energetic* workers.

2 : involving a lot of effort • They mounted an *energetic* campaign.

— *en•er•get•i•cal•ly* /,ɛnə'dʒetɪkli/ *adv* [*more ~; most ~*] • They were working *energetically*.

en•er•gize also Brit en•er•gise /'ɛnə,dʒaɪz/ *verb -giz•es;*

-gized; -giz·ing [+ *obj*] : to give energy or excitement to (someone or something) • His rousing speech *energized* the crowd. • You'll feel more *energized* after a bit of exercise.
-en·er·giz·er also *Brit en·er·gis·er* *noun, pl -ers* [count]
-energizing also *Brit energising* *adj* [more ~; most ~]
 • Our vacation was a very *energizing* experience.

en·er·gy /'enədʒi/ *noun, pl -gies*

1 : ability to be active : the physical or mental strength that allows you to do things [*noncount*] • The kids are always so full of *energy*. • They devoted all their *energy* to the completion of the project. • I have a lot of *nervous energy*. [=energy that comes from being nervous] [*plural*] They devoted all their *energies* to the completion of the project.

2 [*noncount*] : natural enthusiasm and effort • She puts a lot of *energy* into her work.

3 [*noncount*] : usable power that comes from heat, electricity, etc. • The newer appliances conserve more *energy*. • an *energy* crisis • renewable *energy* — see also NUCLEAR ENERGY

4 *technical* : the ability of something (such as heat, light, or running water) to be active or do work [*noncount*] kinetic *energy* [*plural*] particles with high kinetic *energies*

5 [*noncount*] *informal* : a type of power that some people believe a person or place produces • I sense a lot of *negative/bad energy* coming from her right now. • There's *good/positive energy* in this room.

en·er·vate /'enəveɪt/ *verb -vates; -vat·ed; -vat·ing* [+ *obj*] *formal* : to make (someone or something) very weak or tired — usually used as (*be*) *enervated* • The government was *enervated* by corruption.

-enervating *adj* [more ~; most ~] • The heat was *enervating*. — **en·er·va·tion** /,enə'veɪʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*]

en·fant ter·ri·ble /,ɑ:n,fɑ:nt'e'ri:blə/ *noun, pl en·fants ter·ri·bles* /,ɑ:n,fɑ:nt'e'ri:blə/ [*count*] *formal* : a young and successful person who is sometimes shocking and does things in a way that is very different from normal • He is the *enfant terrible* [=bad boy] of daytime television.

en·fee·bled /ɪn'fi:bəld/ *adj* [more ~; most ~] *formal* : made very weak or tired • They took measures to stabilize the *enfeebled* economy. • a patient *enfeebled* by illness

-en·fee·ble·ment /ɪn'fi:bəlmənt/ *noun* [*noncount*]

en·fold /ɪn'fəʊld/ *verb -folds; -fold·ed; -fold·ing* [+ *obj*] *formal*

1 : to cover (someone or something) completely • The dish is made of vegetables *enfolded* in a pastry crust. • We watched as darkness *enfolded* the city.

2 : to hold (someone or something) *in* your arms • He *enfolded* the child *in* his arms. [=he hugged the child]

en·force /ɪn'fɔ:s/ *verb -forc·es; -forced; -forc·ing* [+ *obj*]

1 : to make (a law, rule, etc.) active or effective : to make sure that people do what is required by (a law, rule, etc.) • Police will be *enforcing* the parking ban. • *enforce* a contract
2 : to make (something) happen : to force or cause (something) • trying to *enforce* obedience/cooperation

-en·force·able /ɪn'fɔ:səbəl/ *adj* [more ~; most ~] • This is not an *enforceable* contract. — **en·force·ment** /ɪn'fɔ:s mənt/ *noun* [*noncount*] • the *enforcement* of the treaty • She works in *law enforcement*. [=she works for the police]
-en·forc·er /ɪn'fɔ:sə/ *noun, pl -ers* [count] • law *enforcers* [=police officers]

en·fran·chise /ɪn'fræn,tʃaɪz/ *verb -chis·es; -chised; -chis·ing* [+ *obj*] *formal* : to give (someone) the legal right to vote • newly *enfranchised* voters — opposite DISENFRANCHISE

-en·fran·chise·ment /ɪn'fræn,tʃaɪzmənt/ *noun* [*noncount*] • She was a leader in the movement for the *enfranchisement* of women in the early 20th century.

Eng. *abbr* English

en·gage /ɪn'geɪdʒ/ *verb -gag·es; -gaged; -gag·ing*

1 [+ *obj*] *formal* : to hire (someone) to perform a particular service • He was *engaged* as a tutor. : to pay for (help, services, etc.) • I suggest you *engage* the services of a lawyer. [=I suggest you hire a lawyer]

2 [+ *obj*] : to get and keep (someone's attention, interest, etc.) • He sure can *engage* an audience. • The story *engaged* my interest.

3 : to start fighting against (an opponent) [+ *obj*] The troops prepared to *engage* the enemy. [*no obj*] (*formal*) • The troops prepared to *engage* with the enemy. — opposite DISENGAGE

4 : to move (a mechanism or part of a machine) so that it fits into another part [+ *obj*] He *engaged* the clutch and drove away. [*no obj*] As I released the clutch, the gears *engaged*. — opposite DISENGAGE

engage in [*phrasal verb*] **1** *engage in* (something) : to do (something) • At college she *engaged in* various sports. • We don't *engage in* that sort of behavior. **2** *engage* (someone) *in* (something) : to cause (someone) to take part in (something) • She *engaged* him *in* conversation. [=she started a conversation with him]

engage with [*phrasal verb*] *engage with* (someone or something) *formal* : to give serious attention to (someone or something) • The book fails to *engage with* the problems of our time. : to become involved with (someone or something) • a teacher who will not *engage with* the students

en·gaged /ɪn'geɪdʒd/ *adj*

1 : promised to be married • They recently got *engaged* (to be married). • She's *engaged* to him. • an *engaged* couple

2 : busy with some activity • (US) He is *engaged* in research. = (*Brit*) He is *engaged* on research. • He won't be able to attend because he's *otherwise engaged*. [=he is busy doing something else]

3 *a chiefly Brit, of a telephone or telephone line* : being used • The line is still *engaged*. [= (US) busy] • I keep getting the *engaged tone*. [= (US) busy signal] **b** *Brit, of a public toilet* : being used • Is the bathroom *engaged*? [= (US) occupied]

en·gage·ment /ɪn'geɪdʒmənt/ *noun, pl -ments*

1 [*count*] : an agreement to be married : the act of becoming engaged or the state of being engaged to be married • The couple recently announced their *engagement*. • She surprised everyone by breaking off her yearlong *engagement*. — often used before another noun • We're invited to their *engagement* party. • an *engagement* ring

2 [*count*] **a** : a promise to meet or be present at a particular place and time • He was forced to decline due to a previous *engagement*. [=commitment, appointment] • We have a dinner *engagement* this weekend. **b** : a job as a performer • She's been offered several speaking *engagements*.

3 : the act or state of being involved with something : INVOLVEMENT [*singular*] his lifelong *engagement* with politics [*noncount*] a lack of emotional *engagement*

4 : a fight between military forces [*count*] a naval *engagement* [*noncount*] the rules of *engagement*

5 [*noncount*] *formal* : the act of hiring someone to do work or to perform a service • *engagement* of a lawyer

6 [*noncount*] : the act or result of moving a mechanism or part of a machine so that it fits into another part • *engagement* of the gears/clutch

engaging *adj* [more ~; most ~] : very attractive or pleasing in a way that holds your attention • an *engaging* smile • a very *engaging* story

-en·gag·ing·ly *adv* • an *engagingly* sweet song

en·gen·der /ɪn'dʒendə/ *verb -ders; -dered; -der·ing* [+ *obj*] *formal* : to be the source or cause of (something) • The issue has *engendered* a considerable amount of debate.

en·gine /'endʒən/ *noun, pl -gines* [count]

1 : a machine that changes energy (such as heat from burning fuel) into mechanical motion • The car has a four-cylinder *engine*. • jet/diesel *engines*

2 : the vehicle that pulls a train : LOCOMOTIVE

3 *formal + literary* **a** : something that is used for a particular purpose • tanks, planes, and other *engines* of war/destruction **b** : something that produces a particular and usually desirable result • The tax cut could be an *engine* of economic growth.

— see also FIRE ENGINE, SEARCH ENGINE

en·gi·neer /,endʒə'niə/ *noun, pl -neers* [count]

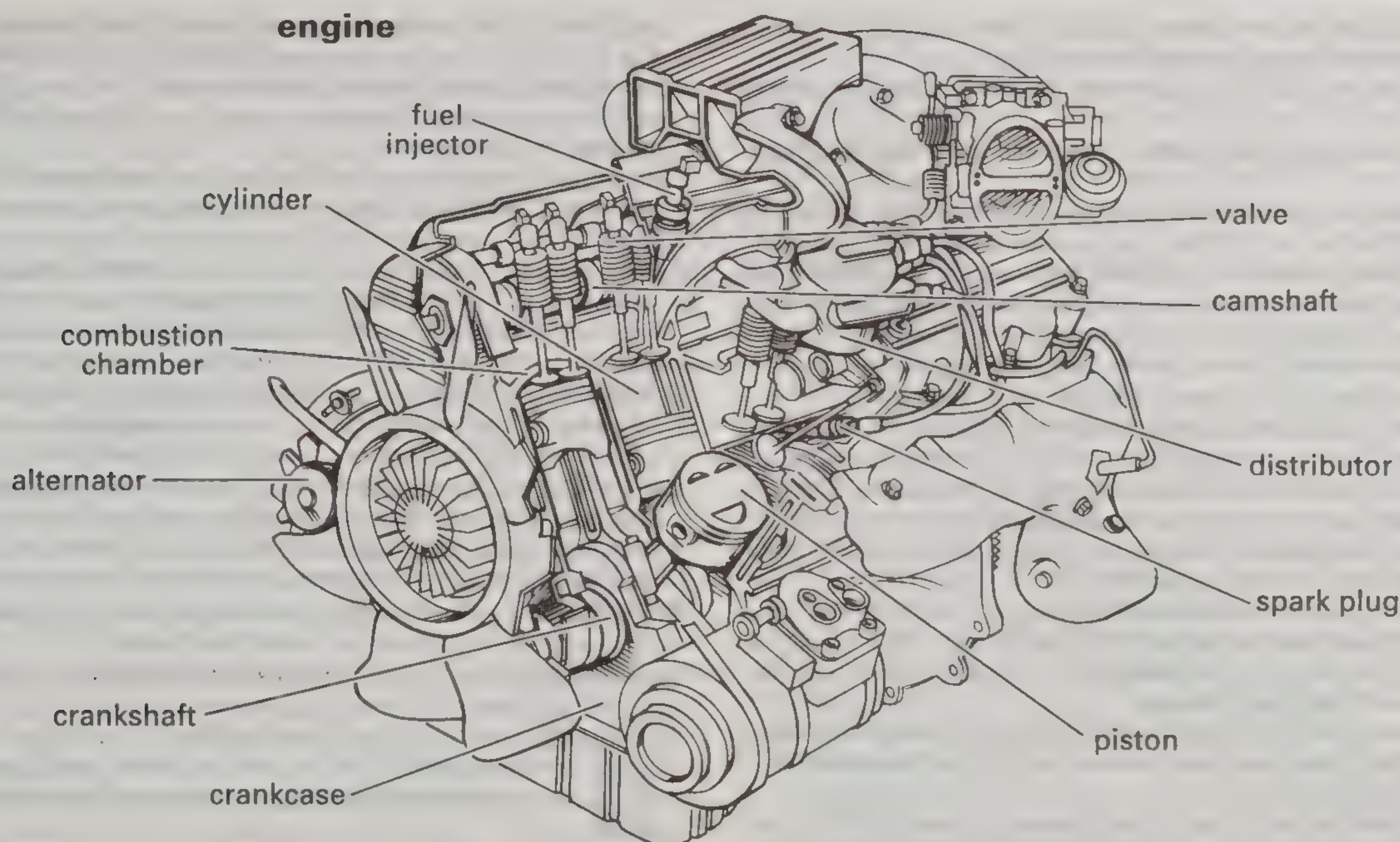
1 : a person who has scientific training and who designs and builds complicated products, machines, systems, or structures : a person who specializes in a branch of engineering • Design *engineers* are working on ways to make the cars run more efficiently. • a mechanical/civil/electrical *engineer* • a software *engineer*

2 **a** : a person who runs or is in charge of an engine in an airplane, a ship, etc. • a flight *engineer* **b** US : a person who runs a train • The *engineer* stopped the train. **c** *Brit* : a person who is trained to repair electrical or mechanical equipment • The telephone *engineer* [= (US) repairman] soon got my phone working again.

3 : a soldier who builds roads, bridges, etc. • Army *engineers* were called in to construct the canal.

engineer *verb -neers; -neered; -neer·ing* [+ *obj*]

1 : to plan, build, or manage (something) by using scientific methods — usually used as (*be*) *engineered* • The system is *engineered* [=designed] for maximum efficiency. • a well-*engineered* highway • *engineered* materials



2 : to produce or plan (something) especially in a clever and skillful way • a brilliantly *engineered* [=crafted] plan • She managed to *engineer* [=finagle] a deal. • The rebels *engineered* a successful attack.

3 *technical* : to change the genetic structure of (a plant or animal) — usually used as (be) *engineered* • These soybeans were *engineered* for greater yield. • genetically *engineered* crops

engineering /ˌendʒəˈnɪrɪŋ/ *noun* [noncount]

1 : the work of designing and creating large structures (such as roads and bridges) or new products or systems by using scientific methods • She studied mechanical/civil/chemical *engineering*. • software *engineering* • This control panel is a good example of smart *engineering*.

2 : the control or direction of something (such as behavior) • *social engineering* — see also GENETIC ENGINEERING

English /ˈɪŋɡlɪʃ/ *adj*

1 : of or relating to England or its people • an *English* town/poet/garden • *English* customs

2 : of or relating to the chief language of Great Britain, the U.S., etc. • They're studying *English* grammar. • the *English* language • an *English* dictionary

English *noun*

1 [noncount] **a** : the chief language of Great Britain, the U.S., and many areas now or formerly under British control • Do you speak *English*? • the grammar of *English* **b** : a particular type of English • American/British/Indian/Irish *English* **c** : English language, literature, or writing as a subject of study • I teach high-school *English*.

2 *the English* : the people of England • *The English* traditionally have afternoon tea.

3 [noncount] : normal English that is not difficult to understand • I asked the doctor to give me my diagnosis in *English*, not medical jargon. — often used in the phrase *in plain English* • She's good at explaining difficult scientific concepts *in plain English*. • The contract is written *in plain English*.

English breakfast *noun*, *pl* ~ **-fasts** [count] chiefly *Brit* : a large breakfast that usually includes eggs, meat, toast, and coffee or tea — compare CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST

English horn *noun*, *pl* ~ **horns** [count] chiefly *US* : a musical instrument that is similar to the oboe but lower in pitch — called also (*Brit*) *cor anglais*

English ivy *noun*, *pl* ~ **ivies** [count, noncount] *US* : IVY

Englishman /ˈɪŋɡlɪʃmən/ *noun*, *pl* **-men** /-mən/ [count] : an English man

English muffin *noun*, *pl* ~ **-fins** [count] *US* : a type of flat, round bread that is split and toasted just before it is eaten • We had coffee and *English muffins* for breakfast. — see picture at BAKING

Englishwoman /ˈɪŋɡlɪʃ,wʊmən/ *noun*, *pl* **-women** /-wɪmən/ [count] : an English woman

engorged /ɪnˈɡɔːdʒd/ *adj* [more ~; most ~] : swollen and

filled completely with a liquid (such as blood) • *engorged* tissue

— **en-gorge-ment** /ɪnˈɡɔːdʒmənt/ *noun* [noncount]

en-grave /ɪnˈɡreɪv/ *verb* **-graves; -graved; -grav-ing** [+ *obj*] : to cut or carve lines, letters, designs, etc., onto or into a hard surface • They will *engrave* your initials on the ring for free. • She had the ring *engraved* with her initials. • The image was *engraved* on the plaque. — often used figuratively • That incident was *engraved* in my memory. = That incident *engraved* itself on my memory. [=I will never forget that incident]

— **engraved** *adj* • *engraved* wedding invitations [=wedding invitations that are printed from a surface that has letters, designs, etc., engraved into it] — **en-grav-er** *noun*, *pl* **-ers** [count] • He is a skillful *engraver*.

engraving *noun*, *pl* **-ings**

1 [noncount] : the art of cutting something into the surface of wood, stone, or metal • She studied *engraving* in an art class.

2 [count] : a picture made from an engraved surface • a wood *engraving*

en-gross /ɪnˈɡroʊs/ *verb* **-gross-es; -grossed; -gross-ing** [+ *obj*] : to hold the complete interest or attention of (someone) — usually used as (be/get) *engrossed* • She gets completely *engrossed* in her work. • They were *engrossed* in conversation.

— **engrossing** *adj* [more ~; most ~] • The book explains the sequence of events in *engrossing* detail. • an *engrossing* story/account/study

en-gulf /ɪnˈɡʌlf/ *verb* **-gulfs; -gulfed; -gulf-ing** [+ *obj*] : to flow over and cover (someone or something) • The valley was *engulfed* in a thick fog. • Flames *engulfed* the building. — often used figuratively • The city threatens to *engulf* the nearby suburbs. • The entire country has been *engulfed* by chaos/crisis/violence. • He found himself *engulfed* by fear.

en-hance /ɪnˈhæns, *Brit* ɪnˈhɑːns/ *verb* **-hanc-es; -hanced; -hanc-ing** [+ *obj*] : to increase or improve (something) • You can *enhance* the flavor of the dish by using fresh herbs. • The image has been digitally *enhanced* to show more detail. • The company is looking to *enhance* its earnings potential. • drugs that *enhance* [=improve] performance = performance-enhancing drugs

— **enhanced** *adj* • The new version includes many *enhanced* features. • She approached the meeting with an *enhanced* understanding of the issues. — **en-hance-ment** /ɪnˈhænsmənt, *Brit* ɪnˈhɑːnsmənt/ *noun*, *pl* **-ments** [noncount] techniques for color *enhancement*. [count] software *enhancements* — **en-hanc-er** *noun*, *pl* **-ers** [count] • flavor *enhancers*

enig-ma /ɪˈnɪgmə/ *noun*, *pl* **-mas** [count] : someone or something that is difficult to understand or explain • To his friends, he was always something of an *enigma*. • one of the great *enigmas* of our time

en-ig-mat-ic /ɪnɪɡˈmætɪk/ also **en-ig-mat-i-cal** /ɪnɪɡˈmætɪkəl/

'mætɪkəl/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] : full of mystery and difficult to understand • an *enigmatic* answer/smile

– **en-ig-mat-i-cal-ly** /,ɛnɪg'mætɪkli/ *adv* • smiling *enigmatically*

en-join /ɪn'dʒɔɪn/ *verb* -joins; -joined; -join-ing [+ *obj*] *formal*

1 : to direct or order (someone) to do something — usually followed by *to* + *verb* • The court *enjoined* the debtors *to pay*.

2 : to prevent (someone) *from* doing something • He was *enjoined* by his conscience *from* telling a lie.; *especially* : to give a legal order preventing (someone) *from* doing something • The judge *enjoined* them *from* selling the property.

en-joy /ɪn'dʒɔɪ/ *verb* -joys; -joyed; -joy-ing [+ *obj*]

1 : to take pleasure in (something) • Did you *enjoy* [=like] the movie? • Relax and *enjoy* the view. • He always *enjoys* a good laugh. • No one *enjoys* being teased. ♠ In speech, *enjoy* is sometimes used by itself as an informal way of saying that you hope someone will enjoy something. • Here is your pie. *Enjoy!* [=enjoy it; enjoy yourself]

2 : to have or experience (something good or helpful) • She *enjoyed* great success in her new business. • The show *enjoyed* a brief surge of popularity. • They *enjoyed* a large income from their investments.

enjoy yourself : to have a good time : to spend time doing something that gives you pleasure • He really *enjoyed himself* at the party.

– **en-joy-able** /ɪn'dʒɔjəbəl/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] • We had an *enjoyable* time. – **en-joy-ably** /ɪn'dʒɔjəbli/ *adv* • The book is *enjoyably* silly.

en-joy-ment /ɪn'dʒɔɪmənt/ *noun*

1 [*noncount*] : a feeling of pleasure caused by doing or experiencing something you like • She always found sports to be a source of great *enjoyment*. • I read the book strictly for my own *enjoyment*.

2 [*noncount*] : the condition of having and using something that is good, pleasant, etc. • the *enjoyment* of good health • This is land set aside for the public's *enjoyment*.

3 **enjoyments** [*plural*] : things that give you pleasure • life's simple *enjoyments* [= (more commonly) pleasures]

en-large /ɪn'lɑːdʒ/ *verb* -larg-es; -larg-ed; -larg-ing : to make (something) larger or to become larger [+ *obj*] We had the photograph *enlarged*. • The company is in the process of *enlarging* [=expanding] its offices. [no *obj*] The glands *enlarge* [=swell] when you have an infection.

enlarge on/upon [*phrasal verb*] **enlarge on/upon** (something) *formal* : to give more information about (something) • Would you kindly *enlarge* [=elaborate] *on* that point?

– **en-larg-er** *noun*, *pl* -ers [*count*] • a photo *enlarger*

en-large-ment /ɪn'lɑːdʒmənt/ *noun*, *pl* -ments

1 : the act of making something larger or of becoming larger [*noncount*] Symptoms include *enlargement* of the lymph nodes. [*count*] The plans call for an *enlargement* of the company's offices.

2 [*count*] : a larger copy of a photograph • I ordered several *enlargements*.

en-light-en /ɪn'lɑɪtn/ *verb* -ens; -ened; -en-ing [+ *obj*] : to give knowledge or understanding to (someone) : to explain something to (someone) • I don't understand what's going on; can someone please *enlighten* me?

– **enlightening** *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] • We found the talk very *enlightening*. [=informative]

enlightened *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] : having or showing a good understanding of how people should be treated : not ignorant or narrow in thinking • an *enlightened* people/attitude/society • an *enlightened* approach to prison reform

en-light-en-ment /ɪn'lɑɪtnmənt/ *noun* [*noncount*]

1 : the state of having knowledge or understanding • the search for spiritual *enlightenment* • His comments failed to provide *enlightenment*. : the act of giving someone knowledge or understanding • the *enlightenment* of the public through education

2 **the Enlightenment** : a movement of the 18th century that stressed the belief that science and logic give people more knowledge and understanding than tradition and religion

3 **Buddhism** : a final spiritual state marked by the absence of desire or suffering

en-list /ɪn'lɪst/ *verb* -lists; -list-ed; -list-ing

1 [+ *obj*] **a** : to get the support and help of (someone or something) • They're *enlisting* volunteers for an experiment. • We *enlisted* all available resources. **b** : to get (help, support, sympathy, etc.) from someone • I *enlisted* the help of our

neighbors. • We *enlisted* the services of a professional.

2 a [+ *obj*] : to sign up (a person) for duty in the army, navy, etc. • They *enlisted* several new recruits. **b** [no *obj*] : to become a member of the army, navy, etc. • After graduating, I *enlisted* in the navy.

3 [no *obj*] : to become involved with a large group of people in a cause, movement, etc. • He *enlisted* in the cause of world peace.

– **en-list-ee** /ɪn,lɪs'tiː, ɪn'lɪsti/ *noun*, *pl* -ees [*count*] • Army *enlistees* – **en-list-ment** /ɪn'lɪstmənt/ *noun*, *pl* -ments [*count*] *Enlistments* in the armed forces have increased this year. [*noncount*] Military *enlistment* is voluntary.

enlisted /ɪn'lɪstəd/ *adj*, always used before a *noun*, chiefly US : serving in the armed forces in a rank below the rank of officers • an *enlisted* man/woman • *enlisted* personnel

en-liv-en /ɪn'lɑɪvən/ *verb* -ens; -ened; -en-ing [+ *obj*] : to make (something) more interesting, lively, or enjoyable • He *enlivened* his speech with a few jokes. • a soup *enlivened* by chili peppers • A few touches of color will *enliven* the room.

en masse /ən'mæs/ *adv* : as a single group : all together • Her supporters arrived *en masse* for the rally.

en-mesh /ɪn'meʃ/ *verb* -mesh-es; -meshed; -mesh-ing [+ *obj*] : to wrap or tangle (someone or something) in a net — usually used as (be) *enmeshed* • The dolphin was *enmeshed* [=entangled] in/by the net. — often used figuratively • The committee was *enmeshed* [=entangled] in a series of disputes.

en-mi-ty /'ɛnməti/ *noun*, *pl* -ties *formal* : a very deep unfriendly feeling [*noncount*] There's a long history of *enmity* between them. • His comments earned him the *enmity* of his coworkers. [*count*] We need to put aside old *enmities* for the sake of peace.

en-no-ble /ɪ'nəʊbəl/ *verb* -no-bles; -no-bled; -no-bling [+ *obj*] *formal*

1 : to make (someone or something) better or more worthy of admiration • a life *ennobled* by suffering • Her skill and talent *ennoble* her profession.

2 : to make (someone) a member of the nobility • He was *ennobled* by the queen.

– **en-no-ble-ment** /ɪ'nəʊbəlment/ *noun* [*noncount*] – **ennobling** *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] • Volunteering is an *ennobling* experience.

en-nui /,ɑːn'wiː/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a lack of spirit, enthusiasm, or interest • He suffered from a general sense of *ennui*. [=boredom]

enor-mi-ty /ɪ'noʊməti/ *noun*, *pl* -ties

1 [*count*] *formal* : a shocking, evil, or immoral act — usually plural • the *enormities* of war

2 [*noncount*] : great evil or wickedness • We were shocked at the *enormity* of the crime.

3 [*noncount*] **a** : great size • I was overwhelmed by the *enormity* [=immensity] of the task at hand. **b** : great importance • They didn't fully grasp the *enormity* of their decision. ♠ Although senses 3a and b are sometimes criticized, they are commonly used.

enor-mous /ɪ'noʊməs/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] : very great in size or amount • They live in an *enormous* house. • We chose not to undertake the project because of the *enormous* costs involved. • He enjoys *enormous* popularity.

– **enor-mous-ly** *adv* • Their new album is *enormously* popular. • He enjoyed himself *enormously*. [=very much]

– **enor-mous-ness** *noun* [*noncount*] • the *enormousness* of the house

1 **enough** /ɪ'naʃ/ *adj* : equal to what is needed • Have you got *enough* money? • That's *enough* talk for now; let's get started. • There's *enough* food for everyone. • There's *enough* room for five people. = There's room *enough* for five people.

2 **enough** *adv*, always used after an *adjective*, *adverb*, or *verb*

1 : in the amount needed : to the necessary degree • I couldn't run fast *enough* to catch up with her. • She's old *enough* to know better. • Are you rich *enough* to retire? • That's good *enough* for me. • Oddly/curiously/strangely/amazingly/surprisingly *enough*, they've never actually met. • As if the crowds aren't bad *enough*, the parking situation is terrible. • You're always ready *enough* [=always very or too ready] to blame someone else for your mistakes. • I was happy/willing *enough* [=I was happy/willing] to go along with his plan. • We can do it if they help *enough*.

2 : to a degree that is not very high or very low : to a reasonable extent • He sings well *enough*. [=he sings fairly well] • The solution seems simple *enough*. [=the solution seems fairly simple]

fair enough see ¹FAIR

sure enough see ²SURE

³**enough** *pronoun* [noncount] : an amount that provides what is needed or wanted : an amount that is enough • There's *enough* for everyone. • Have you had *enough* to eat? • He hasn't had much Spanish, but he knows *enough* to get by. • The crowds are *enough* of a problem as it is, without having to worry about parking as well! • It's *enough* to drive you crazy! • I've had (more than) *enough* of their foolishness. [=I'm sick of their foolishness] • That's *enough*, young lady! [=stop behaving or talking in that way]

enough is enough — used to say that you want something to stop because you can no longer accept or deal with it • I don't mind loaning her a bit of money now and then, but *enough is enough*!

enough said *informal* — used in speech to say that you understand what someone is telling you and no further information is needed • "Is he in good condition?" "Well, he ran in the Boston Marathon last month." "*Enough said.*"

enquire, enquiring, enquiry *chiefly Brit spellings of* INQUIRE, INQUIRING, INQUIRY

en-rage /ɪn'reɪdʒ/ *verb* -rag-es; -raged; -rag-ing [+ *obj*] : to make (someone) very angry : to fill (someone) with rage • His thoughtless behavior *enraged* us. • People were *enraged* by/at/over the decision.

en-rap-ture /ɪn'ræptʃə/ *verb* -tures; -tured; -tur-ing [+ *obj*] *formal* : to fill (someone) with delight • Her melodious voice *enraptured* the audience. — usually used as (be) *enraptured* • The children were *enraptured* by his stories.

en-rich /ɪn'rɪʃ/ *verb* -rich-es; -riched; -rich-ing [+ *obj*] 1 : to make (someone) rich or richer • They tried to *enrich* themselves at the expense of the poor.

2 : to improve the quality of (something) : to make (something) better • Their lives were *enriched* by the experience. = It was a life-*enriching* experience for them. • Their research has *enriched* [=improved] our understanding of the problem. • How can I *enrich* my vocabulary?

3 : to improve the usefulness or quality of (something) by adding something to it • He used manure to *enrich* the soil. • The drink is *enriched* with vitamin C. • *enriched* flour

— **en-rich-ment** /ɪn'rɪʃmənt/ *noun* [noncount] • after-school *enrichment* programs • uranium *enrichment*

en-roll (US) or *chiefly Brit* **en-rol** /ɪn'rəʊl/ *verb* -rolls; -rolled; -roll-ing

1 [+ *obj*] : to enter (someone) as a member of or participant in something — usually + *in* • They *enrolled* their children *in* a private school. • He *enrolled* himself *in* a weight-loss program. [=he joined a weight-loss program]

2 **a** [+ *obj*] : to take (someone) as a member or participant • The college *enrolls* about 25,000 students. • They *enrolled* several volunteers for the study. **b** [no *obj*] : to become a member or participant — usually + *in* • After graduating from high school he *enrolled in* the army. • We *enrolled in* the history course.

— **en-roll-ment** (US) or *chiefly Brit* **en-rol-ment** /ɪn'rəʊlmənt/ *noun*, *pl* -ments [noncount] the enrollment of volunteers • School *enrollment* is up this year. [count] School *enrollments* are up this year.

en route /ən'ru:t/ *adv* : on or along the way when you are going to a place • We stopped to eat *en route* to the museum. — **en route** *adj* • They arrived early despite several *en route* delays.

en-sconce /ɪn'skɑ:ns/ *verb* -scon-ces; -sconced; -sconcing [+ *obj*] : to firmly place or hide (someone or something) • The sculpture is safely *ensconced* behind glass. • He *ensconced* himself in front of the television. • She's already *ensconced* in her new job. [=she is comfortably settled into her new job]

en-sem-ble /ən'sɑ:mbəl/ *noun*, *pl* -sem-bles [count] : a group of people or things that make up a complete unit (such as a musical group, a group of actors or dancers, or a set of clothes) • We went to listen to a new jazz *ensemble*. • She wore an elegant three-piece *ensemble*. • The actor performed an *ensemble* piece.

en-shrine /ɪn'ʃraɪn/ *verb* -shrines; -shrined; -shrin-ing [+ *obj*] *formal* : to remember and protect (someone or something that is valuable, admired, etc.) — usually used as (be) *enshrined* • The artifacts are now safely *enshrined* in a museum. • great players *enshrined* in the Hall of Fame • These rights are *enshrined* in the U.S. Constitution.

en-shroud /ɪn'fraʊd/ *verb* -shrouds; -shroud-ed;

-shroud-ing [+ *obj*] *formal* : to cover (something or someone) in a way that makes seeing or understanding difficult • The details of his life are *enshrouded* [= (more commonly) *shrouded*] in mystery. • Darkness *enshrouded* the earth.

en-sign /'ensən, 'en,sain/ *noun*, *pl* -signs [count]

1 : an officer of the lowest rank in the U.S. Navy

2 : a flag that is flown on a ship to show what country the ship belongs to

en-slave /ɪn'sleɪv/ *verb* -slaves; -slaved; -slav-ing [+ *obj*] : to make (someone) a slave — usually used as (be) *enslaved* • Her ancestors were *enslaved* during the war. — sometimes used figuratively • She felt like she was *enslaved* in a loveless marriage.

— **en-slave-ment** /ɪn'sleɪvmənt/ *noun* [noncount] — **en-slav-er** *noun*, *pl* -ers [count]

en-snare /ɪn'sneə/ *verb* -snares; -snared; -snar-ing [+ *obj*] : to catch (an animal or person) in a trap or in a place from which there is no escape • The animals got *ensnared* in the net. • The police successfully *ensnared* the burglar. — often used figuratively • He was *ensnared* [=trapped, caught] in/by his own web of lies. • The project became hopelessly *ensnared* [=entangled] in red tape.

en-sue /ɪn'su:, Brit ɪn'sju:/ *verb* -sues; -sued; -su-ing [no *obj*] : to come at a later time : to happen as a result • When the news broke, a long period of chaos *ensued*. [=followed]

— **ensuing** *adj* • In the *ensuing* weeks, [=in the weeks afterward] her health gradually improved.

en suite /ən'swi:t/ *adj* or *adv* — used to describe a bedroom to which a bathroom is directly connected or a bathroom that is directly connected to a bedroom • an *en suite* bedroom/bathroom • The bathroom is *en suite*.

en-sure /ɪn'ʃʊə/ *verb* -sures; -sured; -sur-ing [+ *obj*] : to make (something) sure, certain, or safe • They took steps to *ensure* the safety of the passengers. • We want to *ensure* [=make certain/sure] that it doesn't happen again.

en-tail /ɪn'teɪl/ *verb* -tails; -tailed; -tail-ing [+ *obj*] : to have (something) as a part, step, or result • I'll need to know a little more about what the job *entails*. [=involves] • The procedure does *entail* [=carry] certain risks. • He accepted the responsibility, with all that it *entails*.

en-tan-gle /ɪn'tæŋɡəl/ *verb* -tan-gles; -tan-gled; -tan-gling [+ *obj*]

1 : to cause (something) to get caught in or twisted with something else : TANGLE — usually used as (be/get) *entangled* • The kite got *entangled* in the tree. • She tried to get up, but her foot was *entangled* in the strap. • The birds fly into the net and become *entangled*.

2 : to get (someone) involved in a confusing or difficult situation — usually used as (be/get) *entangled* • They were *entangled* in a messy lawsuit. • He was/got romantically *entangled* with the girl next door.

— **en-tan-gle-ment** /ɪn'tæŋɡəlmənt/ *noun*, *pl* -ments [count] romantic/legal *entanglements* [noncount] the *entanglement* of his kite in the tree

en-ter /'entə/ *verb* -ters; -tered; -ter-ing

1 : to go or come into (something) [+ *obj*] Knock on the door before you *enter* the room. • The medication will quickly *enter* the blood stream. • The river *enters* the sea near here. [no *obj*] Knock before you *enter*. = Knock before *entering*. [=knock on the door before you open it to go into the room] • You may *enter* now. — opposite EXIT

2 [+ *obj*] **a** : to begin to be in (an organization, school, etc.) • Our son will be *entering* college next year. **b** : to cause (someone) to be in an organization, school, etc. • *enter* a child in kindergarten • (Brit) We *entered* him for a good school.

3 [+ *obj*] **a** : to start to do something • He was a teacher before he *entered* politics. [=before he began his political career] • He's been faced with many scandals since he *entered* office. [=since he began his term in office] • The new battle-ship is scheduled to *enter* service next spring. **b** : to begin to be in (a particular situation, period of time, etc.) • *enter* middle age • an actor who's just now *entering* his prime • The strike has now *entered* its second week. • We've *entered* a new phase in our relationship. • The country is *entering* a period of prosperity. • *Entering* [=at the start of] the season, he was expected to be an important part of the team. • The word has *entered* common usage [=become commonly used] in recent decades. **c** : to appear for the first time in (something) • He *entered* the game in the fifth inning. • The company has several new products now *entering* the marketplace.

4 **a** : to officially say that you will be in a race, competition,

etc. [+ *obj*] She *entered* every race. • Several leading players have *entered* the tournament. [*no obj*] She won the race last year, but this year she decided not to *enter*. • (Brit) He *entered* for the tournament. **b** [+ *obj*] : to officially say that (someone) will be in a race, competition, etc. • Her coach *entered* her in every race. ✧ If you *are entered* in a race, competition, etc., you are one of the people who are competing in it. • She *was entered* in every race.

5 [+ *obj*] **a** : to include (something) in a book, list, etc. • The teacher *entered* my name on the roster. • *enter* an item in a journal • These words are not yet *entered* in the dictionary. [=they do not yet appear in the dictionary] **b** : to type in (words, data, etc.) on a computer • You need to *enter* your password in order to log on. • Please *enter* the new data in the spreadsheet.

6 [+ *obj*] : to make or state (something) in a formal and official way • *enter* a complaint • The defendant *entered* a guilty plea to a lesser charge of manslaughter.

enter into [*phrasal verb*] **enter into (something)** **1** : to begin to be in or to take part in (something) • *enter into* a discussion • *enter into* an agreement • The two companies finally *entered into* a partnership. **2** : to be a part of or to influence (something, such as a choice or decision) • You shouldn't allow your prejudices to *enter into* your decision. **3** : to share or become involved in (something) • You need to *enter into the spirit* of the occasion.

enter on/upon [*phrasal verb*] **enter on/upon (something)** : to begin to be in or to take part in (something) • She will soon be *entering on* [=starting] a new career. • The country is *entering upon* a period of prosperity.

enter the picture/scene **1** : to become involved in something • The company went through many drastic changes after its new owner *entered the scene*. **2 or enter (into) the equation** : to become something that must be considered or dealt with • Once politics *enters the picture*, chances for a quick settlement are greatly reduced. • Money didn't *enter the equation* when he offered to help. [=he didn't expect to be paid for helping]

enter your mind/head : to occur in your thoughts • The idea of quitting never *entered my mind*. [=I never thought of quitting]

en-ter-prise /'entəpraɪz/ *noun*, *pl* -pris-es

1 [*count*] : a project or activity that involves many people and that is often difficult • Moving the drilling rig offshore was a costly *enterprise*. • a criminal *enterprise* • Agriculture is the main economic *enterprise* among these people.

2 [*count*] : a business organization • When he purchased the company it was a thriving commercial *enterprise*. • The new regulations are intended to encourage the growth of small, independent *enterprises*. [=companies]

3 [*noncount*] : the ability or desire to do dangerous or difficult things or to solve problems in new ways • She showed great *enterprise* [=initiative] as a young reporter. • He was criticized for his lack of *enterprise* in dealing with the crisis. — see also FREE ENTERPRISE, PRIVATE ENTERPRISE

en-ter-pris-ing /'entəpraɪzɪŋ/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : having or showing the ability or desire to do new and difficult things • As an *enterprising* young reporter, she covered many important stories.

en-ter-tain /,entə'teɪn/ *verb* -tains; -tained; -tain-ing

1 : to have people as guests in your home or in a public place (such as a restaurant) [+ *obj*] They like to *entertain* their friends at their summer home. • Much of his job as a salesman involves *entertaining* clients. [*no obj*] They enjoy cooking and *entertaining*. [=hosting dinner parties and other social occasions]

2 a [+ *obj*] : to perform for (an audience) : to provide amusement for (someone) by singing, acting, etc. • Jugglers were on hand to *entertain* the crowd. • Our father *entertained* us with stories. **b** : to provide or be entertainment for (someone) [+ *obj*] Our father's stories *entertained* us. [*no obj*] Our father's stories never failed to *entertain*. [=his stories were always enjoyable]

3 [+ *obj*] : to have (a thought, idea, etc.) in your mind • She was so unhappy with her job that she *entertained* thoughts of quitting. [=she thought about quitting] • It now seems possible to *entertain* hopes [=to hope] that the strike will be settled soon.

en-ter-tain-er /,entə'teɪnə/ *noun*, *pl* -ers [*count*] : a person (such as a singer, an actor, or a comedian) who entertains other people : a professional performer • a singer regarded as one of the great *entertainers* of our time

entertaining /,entə'teɪnɪŋ/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : amusing and enjoyable : providing entertainment • an *entertaining* book • an *entertaining* speaker

— **en-ter-tain-ing-ly** *adv* • She wrote an *entertainingly* honest account of her childhood.

en-ter-tain-ment /,entə'teɪnmənt/ *noun*, *pl* -ments

1 : amusement or pleasure that comes from watching a performer, playing a game, etc. [*noncount*] *Entertainment* was provided by jugglers. • plays, movies, and other forms of *entertainment* • They played games in the evening for *entertainment*. [*count*] plays, movies, and other *entertainments*

2 [*noncount*] : the act of amusing or entertaining people • They hired a band for the *entertainment* of the guests. [=to entertain the guests]

en-thrall (*chiefly* US) or Brit **en-thral** /ɪn'thɹɑːl/ *verb* -thralls; -thrall-ed; -thrall-ing [+ *obj*] : to hold the attention of (someone) by being very exciting, interesting, or beautiful • The movie has *enthralled* [=charmed, captivated] audiences across the country. — often used as (be) *enthralled* • I *was enthralled* by/with the beauty of the landscape.

— **enthral-ling** *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] • The movie is an *enthral-ling* adventure story.

en-throne /ɪn'throun/ *verb* -thrones; -throned; -thron-ing [+ *obj*] : to make (someone) a king, queen, bishop, etc., in a formal ceremony — usually used as (be) *enthroned* • The archbishop *was enthroned* last year.

— **en-throne-ment** /ɪn'throunmənt/ *noun*, *pl* -ments [*count*, *noncount*]

en-thuse /ɪn'thuːz, Brit ɪn'tʃuːz/ *verb* -thus-es; -thused; -thus-ing

1 a [+ *obj*] : to say (something) with enthusiasm • “This dinner is wonderful!” he *enthused*. **b** [*no obj*] : to show enthusiasm : to talk about something with enthusiasm — usually + *over* or *about* • She *enthused over/about* the variety of flowers in the garden.

2 [+ *obj*] : to make (someone) enthusiastic • His presentation failed to *enthuse* the committee.

— **enthused** *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] • The committee members are not *enthused* [=enthusiastic] about the project.

en-thu-si-asm /ɪn'thuːzi,æzəm, Brit ɪn'tʃuːzi,æzəm/ *noun*, *pl* -asms

1 [*noncount*] : strong excitement about something : a strong feeling of active interest in something that you like or enjoy • The party supported its candidate with *enthusiasm*. • He seems to lack *enthusiasm* for the work he's doing.

2 [*count*] : something causing a feeling of excitement and active interest : a hobby that someone feels enthusiastic about • Among his latest *enthusiasms* are sailing and fishing.

en-thu-si-ast /ɪn'thuːzi,æst, Brit ɪn'tʃuːzi,æst/ *noun*, *pl* -asts [*count*] : a person who feels enthusiasm for something : a person who enjoys something very much • a golf *enthusiast*

en-thu-si-as-tic /ɪn'thuːzi,æstɪk, Brit ɪn'tʃuːzi,æstɪk/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : feeling or showing strong excitement about something : filled with or marked by enthusiasm • They were *enthusiastic* supporters of the president. • I'm not wildly *enthusiastic* about your latest idea. • They were less than *enthusiastic*. = They were far from *enthusiastic*. • She received an *enthusiastic* welcome.

— **en-thu-si-as-ti-cal-ly** /ɪn'thuːzi,æstɪkli, Brit ɪn'tʃuːzi,æstɪkli/ *adv* • They welcomed her *enthusiastically*.

en-tice /ɪn'taɪs/ *verb* -tic-es; -ticed; -tic-ing [+ *obj*] : to attract (someone) especially by offering or showing something that is appealing, interesting, etc. • The store hopes to *entice* [=tempt, lure] shoppers with attractive window displays.

— **en-tice-ment** /ɪn'taɪsmənt/ *noun*, *pl* -ments [*count*] The city offered the company tax breaks as an *enticement* [=inducement] to build a factory there. [*noncount*] using attractive displays for the *enticement* of customers

— **enticing** *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] • an *enticing* display of merchandise — **en-tic-ing-ly** /ɪn'taɪsɪŋli/ *adv* [*more* ~; *most* ~]

en-tire /ɪn'taɪə/ *adj* : complete or full : not lacking or leaving out any part • We spent the *entire* [=whole] day at the beach. • He had *entire* [=complete, total] control of the project. • The war affected an *entire* generation of young Americans. • the *entire* community • The fence runs along the *entire* length of the building. • She has dedicated her *entire* life to helping others. • He was listening the *entire* time. [=the whole time, all the time]

— **en-tire-ly** *adv* • The decision is *entirely* yours. • That's an

entirely different question. = That's a different question *entirely*.

en-tire-ty /ɪn'tajəti/ *noun* [noncount] : the whole or total amount of something • the *entirety* of an estate

In its/their entirety : with nothing left out • He played the song *in its entirety*. [=he played the entire song] • His comments will be broadcast *in their entirety*. [=all of his comments will be broadcast]

en-ti-tle /ɪn'taɪtl/ *verb* -ti-tles; -ti-tled; -ti-tling [+ *obj*]

1 : to give a title to (something, such as a book) : **TITLE** • He *entitled* his book "My Life on Mars."

2 : to give a right to (someone) — + *to* • The card *entitles* us *to* a discount. [=we can get a discount because we have this card] — often used as (be) *entitled* • I'm *entitled* to a refund. [=I should be given a refund] • You're *entitled* to your opinion. [=I don't agree with you, but you are free to think what you want]

en-ti-tle-ment /ɪn'taɪtlmənt/ *noun*, *pl* -ments

1 [noncount] **a** : the condition of having a right to have, do, or get something • my *entitlement* to a refund **b** : the feeling or belief that you deserve to be given something (such as special privileges) • celebrities who have an arrogant sense of *entitlement*

2 [count] *US* : a type of financial help provided by the government for members of a particular group • *entitlements* such as medical aid for the elderly and poor

en-ti-ty /'entəti/ *noun*, *pl* -ties [count] *formal* : something that exists by itself : something that is separate from other things • One division of the company was broken off as a separate *entity*. • a business/commercial/corporate *entity* • government/political/legal *entities* • distinct/independent *entities*

en-tomb /ɪn'tu:m/ *verb* -tombs; -tombled; -tombing [+ *obj*] : to place (someone or something) in a tomb — often used as (be) *entombed* • The remains of former kings are *entombed* there. — sometimes used figuratively • fossils *entombed* in sediment

— **en-tomb-ment** /ɪn'tu:mmənt/ *noun*, *pl* -ments [count, noncount]

en-to-mol-o-gy /,entə'mɑ:lədʒi/ *noun* [noncount] : a branch of science that deals with the study of insects

— **en-to-mo-log-i-cal** /,entəmə'lɑ:dʒɪkəl/ *adj* • *entomological* studies — **en-to-mol-o-gist** /,entə'mɑ:lədʒɪst/ *noun*, *pl* -gists [count]

en-tou-rage /,ɑ:ntu'rɑ:ʒ/ *noun*, *pl* -rag-es [count] : a group of people who go with and assist an important person • the President and his *entourage*

en-trails /'en,trelz/ *noun* [plural] : the internal organs of an animal • sheep *entrails* — sometimes used figuratively • examining the *entrails* of a computer

en-trance /'entrəns/ *noun*, *pl* -tranc-es

1 [count] : the act of entering something • the *entrance* of the army into the city • the country's *entrance* into war • The book describes his *entrance* into politics. • The thieves gained *entrance* to/into our house by breaking a window. • She always knew how to make a grand *entrance*. • Everyone noticed when she *made her entrance*. [=when she entered]

2 [count] : something (such as a door) that is used for entering something • The main *entrance* is on the left side. • There are two *entrances* to the park. • The ship passed through the narrow *entrance* to the bay. • a building's front/back/side/main *entrance* • a large *entrance hall* [=a hall located near an entrance to a building] — compare ¹EXIT 1

3 [noncount] : the right to enter something • We gained *entrance* [=entry, admission] to the club. • He was denied *entrance* into the country. • She applied for *entrance* at/to several colleges. — often used before another noun • a college *entrance* exam • an *entrance* fee

²**en-trance** /ɪn'træns, Brit ɪn'trɑ:ns/ *verb* -tranc-es; -tranced; -tranc-ing [+ *obj*] : to fill (someone) with delight and wonder — usually used as (be) *entranced* • We were *entranced* by/with the magnificent view.

— **en-trance-ment** /ɪn'trænsmənt, Brit ɪn'trɑ:nsmənt/ *noun* [noncount] — **entrancing** *adj* [more ~; most ~] • an *entrancing* view

en-trant /'entrənt/ *noun*, *pl* -trants [count] : a person who enters something (such as a competition) • Each *entrant* had to agree to the contest rules. • new *entrants* into a highly competitive field

en-trap /ɪn'træp/ *verb* -traps; -trapped; -trap-ping [+ *obj*] *formal* : to catch (someone or something) in a trap or in something like a trap : **TRAP** • We used the net to *entrap* a school of fish. • The air bubbles were *entrapped* in ice. • She

felt that she was *entrapped* in an unhappy marriage.

en-trap-ment /ɪn'træpmənt/ *noun* [noncount]

1 : the act of entrapping someone or something or the condition of being entrapped • her *entrapment* in an unhappy marriage

2 : the illegal act of tricking someone into committing a crime so that the person you have tricked can be arrested • His lawyer argued that he was a victim of police *entrapment*.

en-treat /ɪn'tri:t/ *verb* -treats; -treat-ed; -treat-ing [+ *obj*] *formal* : to ask (someone) in a serious and emotional way • I *entreat* you to help me. • His parents *entreated* [=implored, begged] him to return to school.

en-treaty /ɪn'tri:ti/ *noun*, *pl* -treat-ies [count] *formal* : a serious request for something • The senator has resisted repeated *entreaties* [=appeals] to run for president. • He finally succumbed to their *entreaties*. [=he did what they asked]

en-trée or **en-tree** /'ɑ:n,trei/ *noun*, *pl* -trées or -trees

1 [count] : the main dish of a meal especially in a restaurant • We had steak as an *entrée*.

2 *formal* **a** [count] : the act or manner of entering something • She made a graceful *entrée* [=entrance] into the ballroom. • His *entrée* [=entry] into the restaurant business was unexpected. **b** [noncount] : the right to enter something • His family connections have given him *entrée* [=entry] into the most exclusive clubs in the city.

en-trench /ɪn'trenʃ/ *verb* -trench-es; -trenched; -trench-ing [+ *obj*] : to place (someone or something) in a very strong position that cannot easily be changed • officials who have tried to *entrench* themselves in office

— **entrenched** *adj* [more ~; most ~] • These attitudes are (deeply/firmly) *entrenched* in our culture. • Computers are now an *entrenched* part of modern life. — **en-trench-ment** /ɪn'trentʃmənt/ *noun* [noncount] • the *entrenchment* of certain attitudes

en-tre-pre-neur /,ɑ:ntɹəprə'nɜ:/ *noun*, *pl* -neurs [count] : a person who starts a business and is willing to risk loss in order to make money

— **en-tre-pre-neur-ial** /,ɑ:ntɹəprə'nɜ:riəl/ *adj* • *entrepreneurial* skills — **en-tre-pre-neur-ship** /,ɑ:ntɹəprə'nɜ:ʃɪp/ *noun* [noncount] • admired for her *entrepreneurship*

en-trust /ɪn'trʌst/ *verb* -trusts; -trust-ed; -trust-ing [+ *obj*] : to give someone the responsibility of doing something or of caring for someone or something • She was *entrusted* with the job of organizing the reception. • *entrust* your car to a friend = *entrust* a friend with your car

en-try /'entri/ *noun*, *pl* -tries

1 [noncount] : the act of entering something • His parents tried to make his *entry* into school life as smooth as possible. • His friends were surprised by his *entry* into politics. • The thieves gained *entry* [=they entered] through a back window.

2 [noncount] : the right to enter something • He was able to gain *entry* [=entrance, admission] to an exclusive club. • She was denied *entry* into the courtroom. • students competing for *entry* into the college • The sign read "No *Entry*." [=“do not enter”] — often used before another noun • an *entry* fee/ form

3 [count] : a place for entering something • He hung up his hat in the *entry*. [=entryway] • the south *entry* [=entrance] of the church — see also PORT OF ENTRY

4 **a** [noncount] : the act of entering something in a book, list, etc. • The word is not common enough for *entry* in the dictionary. • She was hired to do data *entry*. [=to enter data on a computer] **b** [count] : something that is entered in a book, list, etc. • dictionary *entries* • a diary *entry* • a database *entry*

5 [count] **a** : a person or thing that is entered in a contest • Her pie was the winning *entry* in the baking competition. • The race has attracted a record number of *entries*. **b** *chiefly Brit* : the number of people or things entered in a contest • The race has attracted a record *entry*.

entry-level *adj* : at the lowest level : at the level of someone who is just starting a job or career • The company is looking to fill several *entry-level* positions.

en-try-way /'entri,wei/ *noun*, *pl* -ways [count] : a place for entering something • A truck was blocking the *entryway*. [=entry, entrance]

en-twine /ɪn'twain/ *verb* -twines; -twined; -twine-ing : to twist together or around [+ *obj*] The snake *entwined* itself around the branch. — often used as (be) *entwined* • The roses were *entwined* in an iron fence. — often used figuratively • Their lives were tragically *entwined*. [=intertwined] • The themes in the novel are closely *entwined*. [no *obj*] Their lives *entwined* tragically.

enu·mer·ate /ɪˈnu:məˌreɪt, Brit ɪˈnju:məˌreɪt/ verb **-ates; -at·ed; -at·ing** [+ obj] : to name (things) one after another in a list • Let me *enumerate* my reasons for doing this.

– **enu·mer·a·tion** /ɪˈnu:məˌreɪʃən, Brit ɪˈnju:məˌreɪʃən/ noun, pl **-tions** [count, noncount]

enun·ci·ate /ɪˈnʌnsiˌeɪt/ verb **-ates; -at·ed; -at·ing**

1 [+ obj] **formal** : to make a clear statement of (ideas, beliefs, etc.) • He set out to *enunciate* the basic principles of his system. • *enunciate* a basic set of beliefs

2 : to pronounce words or parts of words clearly [+ obj] Be sure to *enunciate* [=articulate] every syllable. [no obj] Children should be taught to *enunciate* clearly.

– **enun·ci·a·tion** /ɪˈnʌnsiˌeɪʃən/ noun [noncount] • the *enunciation* of principles • precise *enunciation*— **enun·ci·a·tor** /ɪˈnʌnsiˌeɪtər/ noun, pl **-tors** [count] • a careful *enunciator*

en·vel·op /ɪnˈveləp/ verb **-ops; -oped; -op·ing** [+ obj] : to completely cover (someone or something) : to completely enclose or surround (someone or something) • She *enveloped* [=wrapped] the baby in a large towel. • Mist *enveloped* the mountains. = The mountains were *enveloped* by/in mist.

– **en·vel·op·ment** /ɪnˈveləpmənt/ noun [noncount]

en·ve·lope /ˈɛnvəˌloʊp, ˈɑːnvəˌloʊp/ noun, pl **-lopes** [count] : an enclosing cover for a letter, card, etc. — see picture at MAIL

push the envelope : to go beyond the usual or normal limits by doing something new, dangerous, etc. • a director who has *pushed the envelope* in his recent films • a new airplane design that *pushes the envelope*

en·vi·able /ˈɛnvɪəbəl/ adj [more ~; most ~] : causing envy : very desirable • The company is in the *enviable* position of having no real competitors. • an *enviable* task • She has an *enviable* reputation for honesty. — compare UNENVIABLE

– **en·vi·ably** /ˈɛnvɪəbli/ adv • The company has had *enviably* high profits.

en·vi·ous /ˈɛnvɪəs/ adj [more ~; most ~] : feeling or showing a desire to have what someone else has : feeling or showing envy • *envious* neighbors • an *envious* look — often + of • His neighbors were *envious* [=jealous] of his success.

– **en·vi·ous·ly** adv • We looked *enviously* at his new car.

en·vi·ron·ment /ɪnˈvaɪrənmənt/ noun, pl **-ments**

1 : the conditions that surround someone or something : the conditions and influences that affect the growth, health, progress, etc., of someone or something [count] He grew up in a loving *environment*. • an informal office *environment* • We're trying to create a better business/learning *environment*. • These animals were raised in a controlled *environment*. • Many plants are unable to survive in such a harsh/ hostile *environment*. [noncount] Heredity and *environment* are both important.

2 **the environment** : the natural world • Pollution is bad for *the environment*. • protecting *the* (natural) *environment*

– **en·vi·ron·men·tal** /ɪnˈvaɪrənˈmentl/ adj • The chemical refinery explosion was an *environmental* disaster. • *environmental* laws • *environmental* protection— **en·vi·ron·men·tal·ly** /ɪnˈvaɪrənˈmentli/ adv • *environmentally* safe methods of waste disposal

en·vi·ron·men·tal·ist /ɪnˈvaɪrənˈmentəlɪst/ noun, pl **-ists** [count] : a person who works to protect the natural world from pollution and other threats

– **en·vi·ron·men·tal·ism** /ɪnˈvaɪrənˈmentəlɪzm/ noun [noncount]

en·vi·rons /ɪnˈvaɪrənz/ noun [plural] : the area that is around a place (such as a city) • We bought a guide to New York and (its) *environs*. • a town and its immediate *environs*

en·vis·age /ɪnˈvɪzɪdʒ/ verb **-ag·es; -aged; -ag·ing** [+ obj] : to picture (something) in your mind : ENVISION • I *envisage* a day when proper health care will be available to everyone. ✧ *Envisage* is used in U.S. English but it is more common in British English.

en·vi·sion /ɪnˈvɪʒən/ verb **-sions; -sioned; -sion·ing** [+ obj] **chiefly US** : to think of (something that you believe might exist or happen in the future) : to picture (something) in your mind • The inventor *envisioned* many uses for his creation. • She *envisioned* a better life for herself.

en·voy /ˈɛnˌvoɪ, ˈɑːn-/ noun, pl **en·voys** [count] : a person who is sent by one government to represent it in dealing with another government • diplomatic *envoys* • a special *envoy*

¹**en·vy** /ˈɛnvi/ noun [noncount]

1 : the feeling of wanting to have what someone else has • my *envy* of his success • Their exotic vacations inspired *envy* in/among their friends. • We watched with *envy* as the yacht

slid past us. • They were *green with envy*. [=they were filled with envy; they were very envious] • Her beautiful hair was an *object of envy*. [=people felt envy because of her beautiful hair] — sometimes used humorously after a noun that indicates an object of envy • My neighbor's new lawn mower has given me a bad case of lawn mower *envy*. [=I'm very envious of my neighbor's new lawn mower]

2 : someone or something that causes envy — used in the phrase *the envy of* • She was *the envy of* all her friends. [=all her friends envied her] • Our car was *the envy of* the neighborhood. [=the neighbors envied us for our car]

²**envy** verb **-vies; -vied; -vy·ing** [+ obj] : to feel a desire to have what someone else has : to feel envy because of (someone or something) • I *envy* you for your large group of friends. • They *envied* his success. = They *envied* him for his success. • I *envy* the way you've made so many friends. • I don't *envy* you your dental problems. [=I'm glad that I don't have your dental problems]

en·zyme /ˈɛnzəɪm/ noun, pl **-zymes** [count] **technical** : a chemical substance in animals and plants that helps to cause natural processes (such as digestion)

– **en·zy·mat·ic** /ˌɛnzəˈmætɪk/ adj

eon (US) or **chiefly Brit ae·on** /ˈiːˌɑːn/ noun, pl **eons** [count] : a very long period of time — usually plural • Over the *eons*, the river changed its course many times. • (informal) How have you been? I haven't seen you in *eons*! [=ages]

ep·au·let (chiefly US) or **chiefly Brit ep·au·lette** /ˌɛpəˈlet/ noun, pl **-lets** [count] : a decorative piece on the shoulder of a uniform

ephem·era /ɪˈfɛmərə/ noun [plural] : things that are important or useful for only a short time : items that were not meant to have lasting value • He has a large collection of old menus and other *ephemera*.

ephem·er·al /ɪˈfɛmərəl/ adj [more ~; most ~] : lasting a very short time • His fame turned out to be *ephemeral*. [=short-lived]

¹**ep·ic** /ˈɛpɪk/ noun, pl **-ics** [count]

1 : a long poem that tells the story of a hero's adventures • Homer's ancient Greek *epic* "The Odyssey"

2 : a long book, movie, etc., that usually tells a story about exciting events or adventures

²**epic** adj

1 : telling a story about a hero or about exciting events or adventures • an *epic* poem • an *epic* film/novel

2 [more ~; most ~] : very great or large and usually difficult or impressive • The football game was an *epic* battle between two great teams. • The bridge was an *epic* achievement. • The company is engaged in an *epic* struggle for survival. • an accomplishment of *epic* proportions • undertaking an *epic* journey

epi·cen·ter (US) or **Brit epi·cen·tre** /ˈɛpɪˌsɛntər/ noun, pl **-ters** [count] : the part of the earth's surface that is directly above the place where an earthquake starts

ep·i·cure /ˈɛpɪˌkjʊər/ noun, pl **-cures** [count] **formal** : a person who appreciates fine food and drink : GOURMET

ep·i·cu·re·an /ˌɛpɪˌkjʊˈriːjən, ˌɛpɪˌkjʊriːjən/ adj : involving an appreciation of fine food and drink : of or relating to an epicure • a person of *epicurean* tastes • *epicurean* delights/pleasures

– **epicurean** noun, pl **-reans** [count] • affluent *epicureans* [=epicures]

ep·i·dem·ic /ˌɛpəˈdɛmɪk/ noun, pl **-ics** [count]

1 **medical** : an occurrence in which a disease spreads very quickly and affects a large number of people • a flu *epidemic* • the AIDS *epidemic*

2 : a sudden quickly spreading occurrence of something harmful or unwanted • a crime *epidemic* • an *epidemic* of bankruptcies

– **epidemic** adj • an *epidemic* disease • The violence has now reached *epidemic* proportions.

ep·i·de·mi·ol·o·gy /ˌɛpəˌdɪˌmiˌɑːlədʒi/ noun [noncount] **medical** : the study of how disease spreads and can be controlled

– **ep·i·de·mi·o·log·i·cal** /ˌɛpəˌdɪˌmiˌjəˈləˌdʒɪkəl/ also US

ep·i·de·mi·o·log·ic /ˌɛpəˌdɪˌmiˌjəˈləˌdʒɪk/ adj — **ep·i·de·mi·ol·o·gist** /ˌɛpəˌdɪˌmiˌɑːlədʒɪst/ noun, pl **-gists** [count]

epi·der·mis /ˌɛpəˈdɛrməs/ noun [noncount] **medical** : the outer layer of skin

– **epi·der·mal** /ˌɛpəˈdɛrməl/ adj • *epidermal* tissues

epi·du·ral /ˌɛpəˈdʊrəl, Brit ˌɛpəˈdʒʊərəl/ noun, pl **-rals** [count] **medical** : an injection of a substance into a person's spine to cause the lower part of the body to become unable

to feel pain • Many women undergoing childbirth are given *epidurals*.

ep-i-gram /'epə,græm/ *noun*, *pl* -grams [count] : a short and clever poem or saying

— **ep-i-gram-mat-ic** /,epəgrə'mætɪk/ *adj* • *epigrammatic* poetry — **ep-i-gram-ma-tist** /,epə'græmətɪst/ *noun*, *pl* -tists [count]

ep-i-lep-sy /'epə,lepsi/ *noun* [noncount] *medical* : a disorder of the nervous system that can cause people to suddenly become unconscious and to have violent, uncontrolled movements of the body

¹**ep-i-lep-tic** /,epə'leptɪk/ *adj*, *medical* : having epilepsy • *epileptic* patients: resulting from epilepsy • an *epileptic* seizure

²**epileptic** *noun*, *pl* -tics [count] *medical* : a person who has epilepsy

ep-i-logue /'epə,lɑ:g/ *noun*, *pl* -logues [count] : a final section or speech after the main part of a book, play, or musical composition — sometimes used figuratively • His final years were a peaceful *epilogue* to a life of adventure. — compare PROLOGUE

epiph-a-ny /'ɪpɪfəni/ *noun*, *pl* -nies

¹ *Epiphany* [singular] : a Christian festival held on January 6 in honor of the coming of the three kings to the infant Jesus Christ

² [count] : a moment in which you suddenly see or understand something in a new or very clear way • Seeing her father again when she was an adult was an *epiphany* that changed her whole view of her childhood. • She experienced an *epiphany*.

epis-co-pal /'ɪpɪskəpəl/ *adj*

¹ : of or relating to a bishop or to bishops as a group • an *episcopal* conference • *episcopal* teachings

² *Episcopal* : of or relating to either the Protestant Episcopal Church in the U.S. or the Episcopal Church in Scotland • an *Episcopal* [=Episcopalian] church/clergyman

Epis-co-pa-lian /ɪ,pɪskə'peɪljən/ *noun*, *pl* -lians [count] : a member of either the Protestant Episcopal Church in the U.S. or the Episcopal Church in Scotland • She was raised as an *Episcopalian*.

— **Episcopalian** *adj* • an *Episcopalian* family • an *Episcopalian* [=Episcopal] church/clergyman — **Epis-co-pa-lian-ism** /ɪ,pɪskə'peɪljənɪzəm/ *noun* [noncount]

ep-i-sode /'epə,soud/ *noun*, *pl* -sodes [count]

¹ : an event or a short period of time that is important or unusual • It was a brief romantic *episode* in a life devoted to work. • He tried to forget the whole embarrassing *episode*. • a painful *episode* from my childhood

² : a television show, radio show, etc., that is one part of a series • Millions of people are expected to watch the show's final *episode*. • a special holiday *episode*

³ : an occurrence of an illness • The patient has experienced recurrent/repeated *episodes* [=bouts] of severe infection. • a fainting *episode*

ep-i-sod-ic /,epə'sɑ:dɪk/ *adj*, *formal*

¹ **a** : made up of many different events or episodes • He led an *episodic* life. [=a life in which many different and unusual things happened] **b** : telling about many separate events • an *episodic* novel

² : happening or appearing at different times • an *episodic* illness

epis-tle /'ɪpɪsəl/ *noun*, *pl* epis-tles [count]

¹ *Epistle in the Bible* : any one of the letters to the early Christians that are part of the New Testament • St. Paul's *Epistle* to the Romans

² *formal* : LETTER • He penned lengthy *epistles* to her.

epis-to-lary /'ɪpɪstə,leri, Brit 'ɪpɪstələri/ *adj*, *formal*

¹ : of or relating to a letter : suitable to a letter • an *epistolary* writing style

² : written in the form of a series of letters • an *epistolary* novel

ep-i-taph /'epə,tæf/ *noun*, *pl* -taphs [count] : something written or said in memory of a dead person; *especially* : words written on a gravestone • The *epitaph* reads "In loving memory of John Gray: husband, father, soldier."

ep-i-thet /'epə,θet/ *noun*, *pl* -thets [count]

¹ : a word or phrase that describes a person or thing • His charitable works have earned him the epithet "Mr. Philanthropy."

² : an offensive word or name that is used as a way of abusing or insulting someone • Many were offended by her use of racial *epithets*. • a group of angry people hurling *epithets* at one another

epit-o-me /'ɪpɪtəmi/ *noun*, *pl* -mes [count] : a perfect example : an example that represents or expresses something very well — usually used in the phrase *the epitome of* • Your response was *the epitome of* good sense. • In his tailored suit and fashionable haircut, he was *the (very) epitome of* style.

epit-o-mize also *Brit* **epit-o-mise** /'ɪpɪtə,marz/ *verb* -mizes; -mized; -miz-ing [+ *obj*] : to be a perfect example or representation of (something) : to be the epitome of (something) • He *epitomizes* laziness. • This student's struggles *epitomize* the trouble with our schools.

ep-och /'epək, Brit 'i:,pɒk/ *noun*, *pl* -ochs [count] : a period of time that is very important in history • The Civil War era was an *epoch* in 19th-century U.S. history. • The development of the steam engine marked an important *epoch* in the history of industry. — compare ERA

— **ep-och-al** /'epəkəl, Brit 'ɛ,pɒkəl/ *adj* • an *epochal* [=epoch-making] invention/event

epoch-making *adj* : very important in history : causing an important change in history • The steam engine was an *epoch-making* [=epochal] development in the history of industry.

ep-oxy /'ɪpɑ:ksi/ *noun* [noncount] : a type of glue — called also *epoxy resin*

Ep-som salt /'epsəm-/ *noun*, *pl* ~ salts [count] : a bitter salt that is used in medicine — usually plural

equa-ble /'ekwəbəl/ *adj* [more ~; most ~] *formal* : tending to remain calm : free from sudden or harsh changes • an *equable* temperament • an *equable* [=mild] climate • a calm, *equable* fellow — compare EQUITABLE

— **eq-ua-bly** /'ekwəbli/ *adv* • He accepted the criticism *equally*. [=he was not upset by the criticism]

¹**equal** /'i:kwəl/ *adj*

¹ **a** : the same in number, amount, degree, rank, or quality • an *equal* number of apples and oranges • officers of *equal* rank • issues of *equal* importance = issues that are *equal* in importance • We divided the profits into three *equal* shares. • The play combines tragedy and comedy in *equal* measure/proportions. • The opposing candidate has demanded *equal* time on television. • "...all men are created *equal*..." —U.S. Declaration of Independence (1776) • people from different cultures learning to live together *on equal terms* [=learning to live together as equals] • making it possible for poor children to compete *on an equal footing* [=in conditions where they have an equal chance] with other children — often + *to* • In one night he earned an amount *equal to* an entire month's salary. • issues that are *equal* in importance to the most serious problems we face **b** : having the same mathematical value • The fractions $\frac{1}{2}$ and $\frac{2}{4}$ are *equal*. — often + *to* • $\frac{1}{2}$ is *equal to* $\frac{2}{4}$.

² : not changing : the same for each person • providing *equal* opportunities for children of all races • We need to have *equal* academic standards for male and female students. • *equal* rights • (US) an *equal opportunity* employer = (Brit) an *equal opportunities* employer [=an employer who does not discriminate against people because of their race, religion, etc.]

³ *formal* : able to do what is needed — + *to* • He says that he's *equal to* the task. [=he's capable of completing the task] *all/other things being equal* see THING

²**equal** *noun*, *pl* equals [count] : someone or something that is as good, skillful, valuable, etc., as another person or thing • I consider him my *equal*. • They say they are producing wine that is the *equal* of the best wines in the world. [=that is as good as the best wines in the world] • We are all *equals* here. • He has no *equal* at chess. = He is *without equal* at chess. [=no one plays chess as well as he does]

first among equals see ¹FIRST

³**equal** *verb* equals; US *equaled* or chiefly *Brit* *equalled*; US *equal-ing* or chiefly *Brit* *equal-ling*

¹ [linking verb] — used to say that one amount or number is the same as another • His salary *equals* mine. • Three plus two *equals* five.

² [+ *obj*] **a** : to be as good as (something else) • Nothing can ever *equal* that experience. **b** : to produce something that is as good as (something else) or to do something as well as (someone else) • See if you can *equal* that! • a weight lifter attempting to *equal* his rival's performance • No one can *equal* him in chess.

³ [+ *obj*] : to have the same force, effect, etc., as (something else) — usually used as (be) *equaled* • His arrogance is *equaled* only by his vanity. [=he is both extremely arrogant and vain]

equal-i-ty /ɪ'kwɑ:ləti/ *noun* [noncount] : the quality or state of being equal : the quality or state of having the same rights, social status, etc. • racial/gender *equality* • the ideals of liberty and *equality* • women's struggle for *equality* — opposite *INEQUALITY*; compare *EQUIVALENCE*

equal-ize also *Brit equal-ise* /'i:kwə,ləɪz/ *verb* -iz-es; -ized; -izing

1 : to make (something) equal or to become equal [+ *obj*] They are hoping to *equalize* pay for workers with similar jobs. • We need to *equalize* educational opportunities for all children. [=to give equal educational opportunities to all children] [no *obj*] Educational opportunities have not yet *equalized*.

2 : to make (something) even or to become even [+ *obj*] trying to *equalize* the pressure [no *obj*] The pressure soon *equalized*.

3 [no *obj*] *Brit, sports* : to tie the score • Their best chance to *equalize* [= (US) *tie*] came in the 60th minute. — see also *EQUALIZER*

— **equal-i-za-tion** also *Brit equal-i-sa-tion* /'i:kwələ-'zeɪʃən, *Brit* /'i:kwə,ləɪ'zeɪʃən/ *noun* [noncount]

equal-iz-er also *Brit equal-is-er* /'i:kwə,ləɪzə/ *noun*, *pl* -ers [count]

1 : something that makes people or things equal • Education can be the great *equalizer*. [=education can give poor people an equal chance]

2 *sports* : a score (such as a point, goal, or run) that ties a game • He scored the *equalizer* in the 60th minute.

equal-ly /'i:kwəli/ *adv*

1 : in an equal or even manner • The money will be distributed *equally* among the winners. • sharing the work *equally*

2 : to an equal degree or extent • My opinions are *equally* valid. • She's respected *equally* by the young and old. • The two projects are *equally* important. ♦ *Equally* is sometimes used to introduce a statement that is added to and just as important as a previous statement. • We need to be concerned about his rise to power. *Equally*, the influence of his opponents cannot be ignored.

equally as informal — used to say that one thing is as important, good, etc., as another thing • One project is *equally as* [=just as] important as the other.

equal sign *noun*, *pl* ~ **signs** [count] : a symbol = used to show that two numbers are equal • $\frac{1}{2} = \frac{2}{4}$ — called also *equals sign*

equa-nim-i-ty /'i:kwə'nɪməti, 'ekwə'nɪməti/ *noun* [noncount] *formal* : calm emotions when dealing with problems or pressure • She accepted her misfortunes with *equanimity*. [=she did not become upset; she remained calm]

equate /ɪ'kwet/ *verb* **equates**; **equat-ed**; **equat-ing** [+ *obj*] : to say or think that (two things) are equal or the same • You shouldn't *equate* those two things. — often + *with* or *and* • He *equates* disagreement *with/and* disloyalty. • You shouldn't *equate* material wealth *with* happiness.

equate to [*phrasal verb*] **equate to** (something) : to be the same as or similar to (something) • Disagreement doesn't *equate to* [=equal] disloyalty.

equa-tion /ɪ'kwetʃən/ *noun*, *pl* -tions

1 [count] *mathematics* : a statement that two expressions are equal (such as $8 + 3 = 11$ or $2x - 3 = 7$) • solve an *equation*

2 [count] : a complicated situation or issue — usually singular • Helping a troubled teenager is more difficult when drugs are part of the *equation*. [=when drugs are involved] • The southern states will be an important part of the election *equation*.

3 [noncount] : the act of regarding two things as the same : the act of equating things • the *equation* of material wealth *with/and* happiness

equa-tor /ɪ'kwetə/ *noun*

the equator : an imaginary circle around the middle of the Earth that is the same distance from the North Pole and the South Pole • The city of Quito, Ecuador, lies very close to *the equator*. • Is it near *the equator*?

equa-to-ri-al /'i:kwə'tɔriəl, 'ekwə'tɔriəl/ *adj* : of or relating to the equator : located at or near the equator • *equatorial* regions/countries • *equatorial* Africa • the *equatorial* climate

¹eques-tri-an /ɪ'kwɛstriən/ *adj* : of or relating to the riding of horses • *equestrian* sports • an *equestrian* competition

²equestrian *noun*, *pl* -ans [count] : a person who rides horses

equi-dis-tant /'i:kwə'dɪstənt, 'ekwə'dɪstənt/ *adj* : of equal distance : located at the same distance • Points on a circle are

equidistant from its center. • Montreal is roughly *equidistant* from New York, Boston, and Toronto.

equi-lat-er-al triangle /'i:kwə'lætərəl-, 'ekwə'lætərəl-/ *noun*, *pl* ~ -angles [count] *mathematics* : a triangle in which all three sides are the same length

equi-lib-ri-um /'i:kwə'libriəm, 'ekwə'libriəm/ *noun* [noncount]

1 : a state in which opposing forces or actions are balanced so that one is not stronger or greater than the other • Supply and demand were in *equilibrium*. • chemical *equilibrium*

2 : a state of emotional balance or calmness • It took me several minutes to recover my *equilibrium*. [=composure]

¹equine /'i:kwain, 'e:kwain/ *adj*

1 : of or relating to horses • an *equine* disease • *equine* grace

2 : resembling a horse • an *equine* face — compare *EQUESTRIAN*

²equine *noun*, *pl* **equines** [count] *formal* : HORSE

equi-nox /'i:kwə'nɔ:ks, 'ekwə'nɔ:ks/ *noun*, *pl* -nox-es [count] : a day when day and night are the same length ♦ There are two equinoxes in the year: the *spring* (or *vernal*) *equinox*, which occurs around March 21, and the *autumn* (or *autumnal*) *equinox*, which occurs around September 23. — compare *SOLSTICE*

equip /ɪ'kwɪp/ *verb* **equips**; **equipped**; **equip-ping** [+ *obj*]

1 a : to provide (someone) with necessary materials or supplies • More money was needed to train and *equip* the troops.

• *Equipped* with a hoe and a shovel, I headed for the garden. **b** : to provide (something) with a particular feature or ability • All of the buses are *equipped* with air-conditioning. [=all of the buses have air-conditioning] • specially/fully *equipped* aircraft

2 : to prepare (someone) for a particular activity or problem • Her training has *equipped* her to deal with emergencies. • She is well-*equipped* to deal with emergencies. • Those students are not *equipped* for the challenges of college.

equip-ment /ɪ'kwɪpmənt/ *noun* [noncount]

1 : supplies or tools needed for a special purpose • sports/steereo/laboratory *equipment* • The photographer came early to set up his *equipment*. • I'm looking for a hobby that doesn't require a lot of fancy *equipment*. • an expensive piece of medical *equipment*

2 : the act of equipping someone or something • Not enough funds were provided for the *equipment* of the troops.

eq-ui-ta-ble /'ekwətəbəl/ *adj* [more ~; most ~] *formal* : just or fair : dealing fairly and equally with everyone • They reached an *equitable* settlement of their dispute. • fighting for a more *equitable* distribution of funds • an *equitable* system of taxation — compare *EQUABLE*

— **eq-ui-ta-bly** /'ekwətəbli/ *adv*

eq-ui-ty /'ekwəti/ *noun*, *pl* -ties

1 [noncount] *formal* : fairness or justice in the way people are treated • In making these decisions we should be governed by the principle of *equity*.

2 finance a [noncount] : the value of a piece of property (such as a house) after any debts that remain to be paid for it (such as the amount of a mortgage) have been subtracted • We've been slowly paying off our mortgage and building up *equity* in our house. • a *home equity loan* [=a loan based on the amount of equity you have in your home] **b** [count] : a share in a company : a share of a company's stock — usually plural • Half of his money is invested in bonds and the other half in *equities*.

equiv-a-lence /ɪ'kwɪvələns/ *noun* [noncount] *formal* : the quality or state of being alike : the quality or state of having the same value, function, meaning, etc. • the *equivalence* of the two propositions — compare *EQUALITY*

equiv-a-len-cy /ɪ'kwɪvələnsi/ *noun* [noncount]

1 : *EQUIVALENCE*

2 chiefly US : a level of achievement that is considered to be on the same level as finishing a course of study — often used before another noun • He went to night school and got his high school *equivalency* certificate. [=a certificate that is equivalent to a high school degree]

¹equiv-a-lent /ɪ'kwɪvələnt/ *adj* : having the same value, use, meaning, etc. • Those less-known companies manufacture *equivalent* products at cheaper prices. • I haven't taken English 202, but I took an *equivalent* course at another university. • an *equivalent* amount of money • two words of *equivalent* meaning = two words that are *equivalent* in meaning — often + *to* • 100 milligrams of calcium, which is *equivalent to* three glasses of milk • Allowing him to leave prison now would be *equivalent to* [=would amount to, would be the

same as] saying that his crime was not serious.

— **equiv-a-lent-ly** *adv* • The two products are priced *equivalently*.

²**equivalent** *noun, pl -lents [count]* : something that has the same value, use, meaning, etc., as another thing • a Chinese word for which English has no (exact) *equivalent* • His newspaper column is the journalistic *equivalent* of candy.

equiv-o-cal /i'kwivəkəl/ *adj* [more ~; most ~] *formal*

1 : having two or more possible meanings : **AMBIGUOUS** • an *equivocal* term • He responded to reporters' questions with *equivocal* answers. — *opposite* **UNEQUIVOCAL**

2 : not easily understood or explained • The experiment produced *equivocal* results. • *equivocal* evidence • *equivocal* behavior

— **equiv-o-cal-ly** /i'kwivəkli/ *adv*

equiv-o-cate /i'kwivə,keɪt/ *verb -cates; -cat-ed; -cat-ing* [no *obj*] *formal* : to use unclear language especially to deceive or mislead someone • The applicant seemed to be *equivocating* when we asked him about his last job. • When asked about her tax plan, the candidate didn't *equivocate*.

— **equiv-o-ca-tion** /i,kwivə'keɪʃən/ *noun, pl -tions* [non-count] The candidate spoke without *equivocation* about her tax plan. [count] His answers were filled with evasions and *equivocations*. — **equiv-o-ca-tor** /i'kwivə,keɪtər/ *noun, pl -tors* [count]

er /'æ:, 'ə: usually with a prolonged vowel/ *interj* — used when you are speaking and you are not sure what to say • "What's the answer?" "Well, *er*, I just don't know."

ER *abbr* emergency room

¹**-er** /ə/ *adj suffix or adv suffix* — used to form the comparative form of adjectives and adverbs of one syllable • *faster* • *hotter* • *drier* — used to form the comparative of some adjectives and adverbs of two or more syllables • *shallower* • *earlier* — compare **-EST**

²**-er** /ə/ *also -ler* /iə, jə/ or **-yer** /jə/ *noun suffix*

1 **a** : person having a particular job • *hatter* • *furrier* • *lawyer* • *jailer* **b** : person or thing belonging to or associated with something • *old-timer* • *high schooler* • *prisoner* **c** : native of : resident of • *New Yorker* • *cottager* **d** : thing that has • *double-decker*

2 : person or thing that does or performs a specified action • *reporter* • *player* • *sharpener* • *do-gooder*

3 : person who is • *foreigner* • *Westerner*

era /'erə, Brit 'iərə/ *noun, pl eras* [count] : a period of time that is associated with a particular quality, event, person, etc. • the Victorian *era* • the Christian *era* • the *era* of the horse and buggy • We're just now entering an *era* of great prosperity. • His death marks the end of an *era*. — *compare* **EPOCH**

erad-i-cate /i'rædə,keɪt/ *verb -cates; -cat-ed; -cat-ing* [+ *obj*] *formal* : to remove (something) completely : to eliminate or destroy (something harmful) • The disease has now been completely *eradicated*. • His ambition is to *eradicate* poverty in/from his community.

— **erad-i-ca-tion** /i,rædə'keɪʃən/ *noun* [noncount] • working for the *eradication* of poverty

erase /i'reɪs, Brit i'reɪz/ *verb eras-es; erased; eras-ing*

1 [+ *obj*] : to remove (something that has been recorded) from a tape (such as a videotape or audiotape) or a computer disk • The recording can be *erased* and the tape used again. • Several important files were accidentally *erased*; *also* : to remove recorded material from (a tape or disk) • You can *erase* the tape/disk and use it again.

2 *chiefly* **US** **a** : to remove (something written) by rubbing or scraping so that it can no longer be seen [+ *obj*] She *erased* the wrong answer from her paper and filled in the correct one. • I *erased* the chalk marks from the blackboard. [no *obj*] These marks won't *erase*. [=can't be erased] **b** : to remove something written from (a surface) • *erase* [=clean] the blackboard

3 [+ *obj*] : to remove any thought or memory of (something) • Time has *erased* the event from her memory. [=she has completely forgotten the event]

— **eras-able** /i'reɪsəbəl, Brit i'reɪzəbəl/ *adj* • an *erasable* tape

eras-er /i'reɪsə, Brit i'reɪzə/ *noun, pl -ers* [count] *chiefly* **US** : a small piece of rubber or other material that is used to erase something you have written or drawn — called also (Brit) *rubber*; see picture at **OFFICE**

era-sure /i'reɪʃə, Brit i'reɪzə/ *noun, pl -sures* : an act of erasing something [noncount] accidental *erasure* of the tape [count] (*chiefly* **US**) • There were many errors and *erasures* in the typescript.

ere /'eə/ *prep or conj, old-fashioned or literary* : **BEFORE** • *ere* nightfall • *ere long* [=soon]

¹**erect** /i'rekt/ *adj*

1 [more ~; most ~] : straight up and down • an *erect* [=upright] pole • *erect* trees • She sat *erect*, listening for her name. • The soldiers stood *erect*.

2 : in a state of erection because of sexual excitement : swollen and stiff • an *erect* penis • *erect* nipples

— **erect-ly** *adv* • standing/sitting *erectly* — **erect-ness** /i'rektnəs/ *noun* [noncount] • the *erectness* of her posture

²**erect** *verb erects; erect-ed; erect-ing* [+ *obj*]

1 : to build (something) by putting together materials • The settlers *erected* [=built] a stone wall. • The city *erected* a statue in his honor. — sometimes used figuratively • He has had to overcome many obstacles *erected* by his political enemies. • *erect* a civilization

2 : to set or place (something) so that it stands up • *erect* a flagpole • They *erected* a marker over the grave.

erec-tile /i'rektl, i'rek,tajəl/ *adj, technical* : of or relating to an erection (sense 1) • *erectile* dysfunction [=a problem that makes a man unable to get an erection]

erec-tion /i'rekʃən/ *noun, pl -tions*

1 [count] : the state in which a body part (such as the penis) becomes firm and swollen because of sexual excitement; *also* : the penis when it is in such a state • get/have an *erection*

2 [noncount] : the act or process of building or erecting something • the *erection* of a new apartment building

er-go /'eəgou, 'ægou/ *adv, formal* : **THEREFORE, HENCE** • The products are poorly constructed; *ergo*, they break easily.

er-go-nom-ics /,ægə'nɑ:miks/ *noun*

1 [noncount] : a science that deals with designing and arranging things so that people can use them easily and safely

2 [plural] : the parts or qualities of something's design that make it easy to use • *Ergonomics* are a crucial consideration when designing an office • The car's *ergonomics* are outstanding.

— **er-go-nom-ic** /,ægə'nɑ:mɪk/ *adj* [more ~; most ~] • *ergonomic* chairs/injuries/factors • The binoculars have a comfortable *ergonomic* shape. — **er-go-nom-i-cal-ly** /,ægə'nɑ:mɪkli/ *adv* • *ergonomically* designed office furniture

er-mine /'əmən/ *noun, pl ermine or er-mines*

1 [count] **US** : a small animal that has a long body and fur that turns white in winter — compare **STOAT**

2 [noncount] : the white fur of an ermine • an *ermine* coat

erode /i'roud/ *verb erodes; erod-ed; erod-ing* : to gradually destroy (something) or to be gradually destroyed by natural forces (such as water, wind, or ice) [+ *obj*] Crashing waves have *eroded* the cliffs along the beach. — often used as (be) *eroded* • The shoreline was badly *eroded* by last winter's storms. — often used figuratively • Years of mismanagement have *eroded* the quality of their products. • The value of your savings can be *eroded* by inflation. [no *obj*] The shoreline has *eroded* badly. — often used figuratively • Support for the new law has been *eroding* steadily.

erog-e-nous /i'rɑ:ʤənəs/ *adj* [more ~; most ~] : producing sexual excitement or pleasure when touched : sexually sensitive • *erogenous* zones [=sensitive areas on the body that cause sexual arousal when they are touched]

ero-sion /i'rouʒən/ *noun* [noncount] : the gradual destruction of something by natural forces (such as water, wind, or ice) : the process by which something is eroded or worn away • Landscapers planted grass to stop the *erosion* of the hillside. • Centuries of *erosion* by wind have carved grooves in the rocks. — often used figuratively • the *erosion* of moral standards • an *erosion* of support for the new law • Many companies fear further *erosion* of liberal trade policies.

— **ero-sion-al** /i'rouʒən/ *adj, technical* • *erosional* areas/periods/processes — **ero-sive** /i'rouʒɪv/ *adj* [more ~; most ~] *technical* • the *erosive* effect of water • *erosive* processes

erot-ic /i'rɑ:tɪk/ *adj* [more ~; most ~] : relating to sex • *erotic* dreams/fantasies/feelings • an *erotic* [=sexual] relationship : causing sexual feelings • *erotic* literature/art • *erotic* beauty • an *erotic* dance

— **erot-i-cal-ly** /i'rɑ:tɪkli/ *adv*

erot-ica /i'rɑ:tɪkə/ *noun* [noncount] : works of art or literature that deal with sex and are meant to cause sexual feelings : erotic works • a collection of *erotica*

erot-i-cism /i'rɑ:tə,sɪzəm/ *noun* [noncount] : a quality that causes sexual feelings • the subtle *eroticism* of his films • an actress known for her smoldering *eroticism*

err /'eə, 'ə/ *verb errs; erred; err-ing* [no *obj*] *formal* : to

make a mistake • I may have *erred* in my calculations. • The court *erred* in refusing to allow bail. • **To err is human.** [=it is normal for people to make mistakes]

err on the side of ✧ To *err on the side of* something, such as caution, is to use or show more of it than may be needed so that you can be sure that you are using or showing enough of it. • It's better to *err on the side of* generosity [=to be too generous] than to be too stingy. • We chose to *err on the side of caution* [=to be very cautious] when planning our investments.

er-rand /'erənd/ *noun*, *pl* -rands [count] : a short journey that you take to do or get something • He was sent out on an urgent *errand*. • We were there on an *errand of mercy* to help provide medical care for the refugees. — often used with *run* • I have to *run* some *errands* for my mom this afternoon. — sometimes used with *do* • She had a bunch of *errands to do* before dinner. ✧ A *fool's errand* is an errand that does not need to be done or that cannot be done successfully.

errand boy *noun*, *pl* ~ boys [count] *US* : a person whose job is to run errands for important people • He worked his way up from *errand boy* to regional sales manager. ✧ *Errand boy* is often used figuratively to criticize people by suggesting that they are controlled by someone more powerful. • The governor is nothing more than an *errand boy* for the big companies in his state.

er-rant /'erənt/ *adj*

1 *always used before a noun* **a** : behaving wrongly • an *errant* [=unfaithful] husband • an *errant* cop [=a policeman who has broken the law] **b** *US* : going outside the proper area • an *errant* calf • an *errant* motorboat **c** *US, sports* : not going in the intended direction : not accurate • an *errant* throw/pass/shot

2 : wandering to different places in search of adventure • an *errant* knight — see also KNIGHT-ERRANT

Do not confuse *errant* with *arrant*.

er-rat-ic /'rætik/ *adj* [more ~; most ~] : acting, moving, or changing in ways that are not expected or usual : not consistent or regular • His behavior seemed *erratic*. • The light flashes at *erratic* [=irregular, random] intervals. • He's an *erratic* [=inconsistent] shooter. • *erratic* [=fluctuating] oil prices — **er-rat-i-cal-ly** /'rætikli/ *adv* • behaving/moving/acting *erratically*

er-ro-ne-ous /'rounijəs/ *adj* [more ~; most ~] *formal* : not correct • We received *erroneous* information. • an *erroneous* diagnosis/theory

— **er-ro-ne-ous-ly** *adv* • The paper reported *erroneously* [=incorrectly] that he had died.

er-ror /'erə/ *noun*, *pl* -rors

1 : something that is not correct : a wrong action or statement : MISTAKE [count] I made an *error* in my calculations. • They uncovered several *errors* in his report to the committee. • The paper contains numerous spelling *errors*. • The computer displayed an *error message*. [=a message indicating that an error has occurred] • The project was a *comedy of errors*. [=there were many errors made throughout the project] • The company has admitted that it made an *error in judgment* [=a poor decision] in trying to expand too quickly. [noncount] horrifying cases of hospital *error* • The accident was caused by *human error*. [=by a mistake made by a person] — see also *trial and error* at ¹TRIAL

2 [count] : a mistake made by a person who is playing a sport (such as baseball or tennis) • The shortstop was charged with an *error*.

in error **1** : not correct • I believe your conclusion is *in error*. [=incorrect, mistaken] • The judge was *in error* when she allowed the evidence to be admitted. **2** : in a way that is not correct • My earlier statement was made *in error*. [=my earlier statement was incorrect] • The evidence was admitted *in error*. [=incorrectly, mistakenly]

margin of/for error see MARGIN

the error of your ways ✧ To see, recognize, acknowledge, etc., *the error of your ways* is to admit that you have been doing something wrong or behaving badly and to stop doing it. • Congress recognized the *error of its ways* and repealed the law. • He publicly acknowledged *the error of his ways* and asked for forgiveness.

— **er-ror-less** /'erələs/ *adj*

er-satz /'eəˌsɑːts, Brit 'eəˌzæts/ *adj* [more ~; most ~] : copied from something else and usually not as good as the original : FAKE • an apartment complex designed as an *ersatz* Mediterranean villa

erst-while /'əstˌwaɪəl/ *adj*, *always used before a noun, formal* : in the past : FORMER • *erstwhile* friends [=people who were friends in the past] • *erstwhile* allies/enemies/lovers

er-u-dite /'erəˌdaɪt/ *adj* [more ~; most ~] : having or showing knowledge that is learned by studying • an *erudite* [=learned] scholar/professor/librarian • an *erudite* essay — **er-u-dite-ly** *adv*

er-u-di-tion /'erəˌdɪʃən/ *noun* [noncount] : impressive knowledge that is learned by studying • a scholar of remarkable *erudition* • an amazing display of *erudition* [=learning]

erupt /'ɪrʌpt/ *verb* **erupts; erupted; erupt-ing** [no obj]

1 : to send out rocks, ash, lava, etc., in a sudden explosion • The volcano *erupted* with tremendous force; *also* : to come out in a sudden explosion — + *from* • Tons of ash *erupted from* the volcano. • Steam *erupted from* the geyser.

2 : to happen or begin suddenly and violently • War could *erupt* [=break out] in that part of the world at any time. • Riots *erupted* last summer. • A bitter dispute has *erupted* among the members of the team.

3 : to begin doing something (such as shouting or applauding) suddenly — usually + *in, into, or with* • The crowd *erupted in* applause when she finished her speech. • The audience *erupted into/with* laughter.

4 : to appear suddenly on the skin • A rash has *erupted* on his back.

5 of a tooth : to come out through the gum • permanent teeth *erupting*

— **erup-tion** /'ɪrʌpʃən/ *noun*, *pl* -tions [count] a volcanic eruption • a sudden *eruption* of violence • a skin *eruption* [=a rash that has erupted on the skin] [noncount] trying to prevent *eruption* of violence — **erup-tive** /'ɪrʌptɪv/ *adj*, *technical* • *eruptive* volcanic activity

-ery /əri/ *noun* *suffix*

1 : qualities considered as a group : character • snobbery

2 : place of doing, keeping, producing, or selling (something) • fishery • bakery

3 : collection • finery

4 : state or condition • slavery

1-es /əz, ɪz *after s, z, ʃ, ʒ; z after v or a vowel*/ *noun plural suffix* — used to form the plural of most nouns that end in *s, x, z, sh, ch*, or a final *y* that changes to *i* • glasses • boxes • waltzes • bushes • peaches • ladies — compare ¹-s

2-es *verb suffix* — used to form the third person singular present tense of most verbs that end in *s, x, z, sh, ch*, or a final *y* that changes to *i* • blesses • mixes • fizzes • hushes • catches • defies — compare ²-s

es-ca-late /'eskəˌleɪt/ *verb* -lates; -lat-ed; -lat-ing

1 : to become worse or to make (something) worse or more severe [no obj] The conflict has *escalated* into an all-out war. • a time of *escalating* tensions/violence [+ obj] We are trying not to *escalate* the violence.

2 : to become greater or higher or to make (something) greater or higher [no obj] Salaries of leading executives have continued to *escalate*. • an effort to combat *escalating* [=rising] costs [+ obj] The cold weather has *escalated* fuel prices.

— **es-ca-la-tion** /'eskəˌleɪʃən/ *noun* [count, noncount]

es-ca-la-tor /'eskəˌleɪtə/ *noun*, *pl* -tors [count] : a moving set of stairs that carries people up or down from one level of a building to another

es-ca-pade /'eskəˌpeɪd/ *noun*, *pl* -pades [count] : an exciting, foolish, or dangerous experience or adventure • a madcap/drunken/comic *escapade* • As a teenager he embarked on a series of ill-advised *escapades*. • sexual/erotic *escapades*

1-es-cape /'ɪskeɪp/ *verb* -capes; -caped; -cap-ing

1 [no obj] **a** : to get away from a place (such as a prison) where you are being held or kept • The prisoner *escaped* (from jail). • an *escaped convict* [=a convict who has escaped from prison] **b** : to get away from a dangerous place or situation • The boat sank but the crew *escaped* (unharmed). • They managed to *escape* from the burning building.

2 : to get away from something that is difficult or unpleasant [+ obj] He needed a vacation to *escape* the routine of daily life. • She moved to the city to *escape* the memory of her mother's death. • trying to help people to *escape* poverty [no obj] trying to help people to *escape* from poverty • This vacation will give us a chance to *escape* (from the routine of daily life). • *escape* from reality

3 : to avoid something : to not experience something (such as disease or injury) [+ obj] He succeeded in *escaping* punishment for many years. • A few passengers somehow *escaped* injury. • *escaped* being injured • She barely/narrowly *escaped* death/disaster when her car slid off the road. • Many

cases of fraud **escape detection**. [=are not detected] [*no obj*] Several passengers **escaped** without injury. • She narrowly **escaped with her life**. [=she narrowly avoided death]
4 [+ *obj*] : to fail to be remembered or noticed by (someone) • His name **escapes** me. [=I can't remember his name] • Nothing **escapes** her. = Nothing **escapes** her notice.
5 [*no obj*] : to come out from somewhere • A bit of light **escaped** through the cracks. : to leak out • Gas is **escaping** from the tank.
6 *literary* : to come out or be spoken without being intended [+ *obj*] A sigh of relief **escaped** her. [=she sighed in relief without realizing that she was doing it] [*no obj*] A sigh **escaped** from her lips.
escape the ax see ¹AX
there is no escaping — used to say that something is certainly true, real, etc., and cannot be avoided or denied • *There's no escaping* the conclusion [=it is necessary to conclude] that he lied about his involvement. • *There's no escaping* the fact that this system needs to be replaced.

²**escape** *noun, pl -capes*
1 [*count*] : an act of escaping from a place, situation, etc. • The prisoners attempted a daring **escape**. • He celebrated his **escape** from his boring job with a long vacation. • He made his **escape**. = He **made good his escape**. [=he succeeded in escaping] • She had a **lucky escape** when she wasn't injured in the accident. • She managed to avoid serious injury, but it was a **narrow escape**.
2 [*count*] : a way of escaping from a place, situation, etc. • The door was locked; there was no **escape**. • Gardening offered an **escape** from her busy life. — see also FIRE ESCAPE
3 : an occurrence in which an amount of liquid or gas passes out through a hole or crack in a container [*count*] an accidental **escape** of poisonous gases [*noncount*] trying to prevent further **escape** of liquid
escape artist *noun, pl ~ -ists* [*count*] : a person (such as an entertainer) who is good at escaping • Harry Houdini became famous as an **escape artist**.
escape clause *noun, pl ~ clauses* [*count*] : a part of a contract that allows you to get out of the contract in a particular situation
es·cap·ee /ɪˈskeɪpiː/ *noun, pl -ees* [*count*] : a person who has escaped : a prisoner who has escaped • an **escapee** from the local jail
escape hatch *noun, pl ~ hatches* [*count*] : a door or hatch that can be used to get out of something in an emergency • the **escape hatch** of a submarine
escape mechanism *noun, pl ~ -isms* [*count*] : a way of behaving or thinking that is used to avoid unpleasant facts or problems • She uses humor as an **escape mechanism**. • Football gives him an **escape mechanism** for his anger.
es·cap·ism /ɪˈskeɪpɪzəm/ *noun* [*noncount*] : an activity or form of entertainment that allows people to forget about the real problems of life • The movie is pure **escapism**. [=fantasy] • Reading romantic novels is for her a form of **escapism**.
— **es·cap·ist** /ɪˈskeɪpɪst/ *adj* • **escapist** fiction • the film's **escapist** appeal
es·carp·ment /ɪˈskɑːpmənt/ *noun, pl -ments* [*count*] : a long cliff or steep slope that separates two flat or slightly sloped areas
es·chew /eˈʃuː, ɛsˈtʃu/ *verb* **es·chews; es·chewed; es·chew·ing** [+ *obj*] *formal* : to avoid (something) especially because you do not think it is right, proper, etc. • They now **eschew** the violence of their past. • a psychologist who **eschews** the traditional methods of psychotherapy
¹**es·cort** /ˈɛsˌkoʊt/ *noun, pl -corts* [*count*]
1 **a** : a person or group of people who go with someone to give protection guidance • Visitors are not allowed to enter the building without an **escort**. • a police **escort** — sometimes used after *under* • The prisoner was taken to the court *under* police **escort**. [=with a police escort] **b** : a group of vehicles, ships, or planes that provide protection • The bombers were protected by a fighter **escort**.
2 **a formal** : a man who goes with a woman to a social event • Everyone was surprised when she arrived at the party without an **escort**. **b** : a woman or a man who is hired to go with someone to a social event — often used before another noun • an **escort** agency/service
²**es·cort** /ɪˈskoʊt/ *verb -corts; -cort·ed; -cort·ing* [+ *obj*] : to go with (someone or something) to give protection or guidance • He **escorted** [=guided, led] me to the library upstairs. • Several fighters **escorted** the bombers back to base.
Es·ki·mo /ˈɛskəˌmoʊ/ *noun, pl Eskimo or Es·ki·mos*

[*count*] : a member of a group of people of Alaska, northern Canada, Greenland, and northeastern Siberia ♦ The word **Eskimo** is now considered offensive by some people. — compare INUIT
ESL /iːˈɛsˌɛl/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the teaching of English to people who speak a different language and who live in a country where English is the main language spoken ♦ **ESL** is an abbreviation of “English as a second language.”
esoph·a·gus (US) or **Brit oe·soph·a·gus** /ɪˈsɑːfəɡəs/ *noun, pl -a·gi* /-ˌɡaɪ/ [*count*] *medical* : the tube that leads from the mouth through the throat to the stomach — see picture at HUMAN
es·o·ter·ic /ɛsəˈterɪk/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*]
1 : only taught to or understood by members of a special group • **esoteric** knowledge : hard to understand • **esoteric** subjects/concepts
2 : limited to a small number of people • **esoteric** pursuits • **esoteric** religious sects
— **es·o·ter·i·cal·ly** /ɛsəˈterɪkli/ *adv*
esp. *abbr* especially
ESP /iːˈɛsˌpiː/ *noun* [*noncount*] : EXTRASENSORY PERCEPTION
es·pe·cial /ɪˈspɛʃəl/ *adj, always used before a noun, formal* : more than usual : SPECIAL • This is a matter of **especial** importance.
es·pe·cial·ly /ɪˈspɛʃəli/ *adv* [*more ~; most ~*]
1 : more than usually : VERY, EXTREMELY • He was **especially** concerned about the contract. • an **especially** good essay • There is nothing **especially** radical about that idea. • Winning this tournament was **especially** satisfying. • The food was not **especially** good. [=not very good]
2 **a** — used to indicate something that deserves special mention • She can't be sure she will win, **especially** at this early stage of the campaign. • The appetizers and **especially** [=particularly] the soup were delicious. • **Especially** in the beginning, they had many doubts. **b** : for a particular purpose or person • The facility was built **especially** [=specifically] for research. • I made this pie **especially** for you.
not especially informal — used to say that you are not very interested in doing something • “Would you like to go to a movie?” “No, **not especially**.”
es·pi·o·nage /ˈɛspɪəˌnɑːʒ/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the things that are done to find out secrets from enemies or competitors : the activity of spying • He was charged with several counts of **espionage**. • international/industrial **espionage** • an **espionage** novel/thriller
es·pla·nade /ˈɛspləˌnɑːd, Brit ˈɛspləˌneɪd/ *noun, pl -nades* [*count*] : a level, open area; **especially** : an area for walking or driving along a shore • a tree-lined **esplanade** by the river
es·pous·al /ɪˈspauzəl/ *noun* [*singular*] *formal* : the act of expressing support for a cause or belief : the act of espousing something — + *of* • His **espousal** of socialism has been a surprise to many former colleagues.
es·pouse /ɪˈspauz/ *verb -pous·es; -poused; -pous·ing* [+ *obj*] *formal* : to express support for (a cause, belief, etc.) • The new theory has been **espoused** by many leading physicists. • Those **espousing** unpopular views were often excluded.
— **es·pous·er** *noun, pl -ers* [*count*] • an **espouser** [=supporter, proponent] of liberal causes
espres·so /ɛˈspresou/ *noun, pl -sos* : strong coffee that is made by forcing steam through finely ground roasted coffee beans [*noncount*] a cup of **espresso** [*count*] Two **espressos**, [=cups of espresso] please.
es·prit de corps /ɪˌspriːdəˈkoʊ/ *noun* [*noncount*] : feelings of loyalty, enthusiasm, and devotion to a group among people who are members of the group • The troops showed great **esprit de corps**.
es·py /ɪˈspaɪ/ *verb -pies; -pied; -py·ing* [+ *obj*] *formal + literary* : to see or notice (someone or something) • “... the next thing he **espies** may be the lady.” —Shakespeare, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (1595)
Esq. *abbr* esquire
es·quire /ˈɛˌskwajə, Brit ɪˈskwajə/ *noun, pl -quires* [*count*] — used as a title of courtesy after a name; in writing usually used in its abbreviated form **Esq.** • John Smith, **Esq.** ♦ The use of **Esq.** after a man's name was once common in British English but is now considered somewhat old-fashioned. In U.S. English, **Esq.** is used in writing after the name of an attorney, and it is used for both men and women. • Sheila Jones, **Esq.**
¹**es·say** /ˈɛˌseɪ/ *noun, pl -says* [*count*] : a short piece of writ-



ing that tells a person's thoughts or opinions about a subject
• Your assignment is to write a 500-word *essay* on one of Shakespeare's sonnets. • The book is a collection of his previously unpublished *essays* on/about a variety of topics.

²**es·say** /e'seɪ/ *verb* -says; -said; -say·ing [+ *obj*] *formal*
: to try to do, perform, or deal with (something) • He at first *essayed* [=tried, attempted] a career as a writer. • There is no hint as to which of the approaches *essayed* in this book will prove most useful. — sometimes followed by *to* + *verb* • He *essayed* [=tried, attempted] to restore an emphasis on classical languages.

es·say·ist /'e,sɛɪst/ *noun*, *pl* -ists [*count*] : a writer of essays • a 17th-century *essayist*

es·sence /'esns/ *noun*

1 [*singular*] : the basic nature of a thing : the quality or qualities that make a thing what it is • The *essence* of love is unselfishness. • The book's illustrations capture the *essence* of the story. • Competition is the (very) *essence* of capitalism.

2 [*noncount*] : a substance that contains in very strong form the special qualities (such as the taste and smell) of the thing from which it is taken • *essence* of peppermint/lemon

in essence : at the most basic level • He was *in essence* [=basically, essentially, fundamentally] an honest person. • *In essence*, I believe that a real solution is not possible.

of the essence : of the greatest importance • Time/speed is *of the essence* when dealing with a medical emergency.

¹**es·sen·tial** /ɪ'senʃəl/ *adj* [more ~; most ~]

1 : extremely important and necessary • As a fighter pilot, he knows that good vision is *essential*. • Reservations are *essential* [=necessary, needed] if you plan to eat there on a Saturday. — often + *to* or *for* • The river is *essential* to the region's economy. • Food is *essential* [=necessary] for life. — often followed by *to* + *verb* • It is *essential* to use the proper technique. • It's *essential* to arrive on time. — often + *that* • It's *essential* that we arrive on time.

2 : very basic : FUNDAMENTAL • Free speech is an *essential* right of citizenship. • The *essential* problem with this plan is that it will cost too much. • There's no *essential* difference between the two products.

— **es·sen·tial·ly** /ɪ'senʃəli/ *adv* [more ~; most ~] • All action movies have *essentially* [=basically, fundamentally] the same plot. • What he says is *essentially* true. — **es·sen·tial·ness** /ɪ'senʃəlnəs/ *noun* [*noncount*]

²**essential** *noun*, *pl* -tials [*count*] : something that is basic or necessary : something essential — usually plural • the *essentials* for success • He tried to teach them the *essentials* of physics in just a week. • a computer stripped down to its *essentials* • We only had enough room to pack the *bare essentials*. [=the things that are absolutely necessary]

essential oil *noun*, *pl* ~ oils [*count*] : an oil that comes from a plant, that smells like the plant it comes from, and that is used in perfumes and flavorings

-est /əst, ɪst/ *adj suffix or adv suffix* — used to form the superlative of most adjectives and adverbs of one syllable • *sweetest* • *fattest* • *latest* — used to form the superlative of some adjectives and adverbs of two or more syllables • *luckiest* • *oftenest* — compare -ER

es·tab·lish /ɪ'stæblɪʃ/ *verb* -lish·es; -lished; -lish·ing [+ *obj*]

1 **a** : to cause (someone or something) to be widely known and accepted • *establish* a claim • The film *established* her as a star. • She *established* a reputation as a hard worker. • The word is now *established* as part of the English language. • The company has *established* itself as a leader in the industry. **b** : to put (someone or something) in a position, role, etc., that will last for a long time • As a young doctor he worked hard to *establish* himself in the community. • They want to *establish* their children in the family business.

2 **a** : to begin or create (something that is meant to last for a long time) • *establish* [=found] a school • The city was *established* [=founded] in the 18th century. **b** : to succeed in making or creating (something) • He was never able to *establish* [=build, forge] a close relationship with his son. • She *established* a system of tracking expenses more accurately. • We need to *establish* [=set] more realistic goals for ourselves. • The two countries *established* a mutual trade agreement.

3 **a** : to make the truth or existence of (something) clear or certain : to show that (something) is true or real • He was unable to *establish* [=prove] his innocence. • Research has *established* [=demonstrated, shown] that he played an important role in the negotiations. • *establishing* a link between diet and cancer **b** : to find out (something) • Investigators are trying

to *establish* if/whether anyone knew about these problems before the accident. • I was unable to *establish* why these changes were made.

established *adj*

1 : accepted and used by many people • You need to follow *established* [=standard] procedures/practices. • a well-*established* principle • He challenged the *established order*. [=the way things are usually done in society, in an organization, etc.]

2 : successful for a long period of time • an *established* author/artist • an *established* law firm

3 *of a church or religion* : officially recognized and accepted by the government of a country • an *established* church — often used in British English to refer to the Church of England • a leader of the *Established Church*

es·tab·lish·ment /ɪ'stæblɪʃmənt/ *noun*, *pl* -ments

1 [*count*] : a place or organization where people live or do business • a dry-cleaning *establishment* • a business *establishment*

2 [*noncount*] : the act of establishing something or someone: such as **a** : the act of starting something that will last for a long time • the *establishment* of a business/school/church/settlement **b** : the act of causing something or someone to be widely known and accepted • the *establishment* of a scientific fact

3 **a or Establishment** [*singular*] *often disapproving* : the people in business, government, etc., who have power over the other people in a society • She dislikes *establishment* types. • an *antiestablishment* campaign — usually used with *the* • We spent our youth rebelling against *the Establishment*. • He accepted a boring job and became a member of *the Establishment*. **b the establishment** : the part of a particular group that has power or control • His novels were disliked by *the literary establishment*. • *the medical establishment*

es·tate /ɪ'steɪt/ *noun*, *pl* es·tates

1 [*count*] **a** : all of the things that a person owns • His *estate* is worth millions of dollars. **b** : the things left by someone who has died • He inherited the *estate* from his parents.

2 [*count*] : a large piece of land with a large house on it • a country *estate* • the grounds of the *estate* — see also REAL ESTATE

3 [*count*] *Brit* : a group of buildings that were built for a particular purpose (such as housing or industry) on an area of land • a council *estate* [=buildings built by a local government council] — see also INDUSTRIAL ESTATE

4 [*count*] *Brit* : ESTATE CAR, STATION WAGON

5 [*noncount*] *formal* : a particular state or condition • the *estate* [=state] of matrimony — see also FOURTH ESTATE

estate agent *noun*, *pl* ~ agents [*count*] *Brit* : REAL ESTATE AGENT

estate car *noun*, *pl* ~ cars [*count*] *Brit* : STATION WAGON

estate tax *noun*, *pl* ~ taxes [*count*, *noncount*] : a tax that you pay on the money and other property that comes to you because someone has died : a tax on an estate that you inherit — called also (*Brit*) *death duty*, (*chiefly US*) *death tax*

¹**es·teem** /ɪ'sti:m/ *noun* [*noncount*] *formal*

1 : respect and affection • She has won *esteem* for her work with cancer patients. • His movies have always enjoyed critical *esteem*. [=have always been praised by critics] • Please accept this gift as a token of my *esteem*. [=as a sign of my affection and respect]

2 — used to say how much someone or something is admired and respected • His movies have fallen in critical *esteem*. [=are admired less now than they were before] — often used after *hold* • He *holds* his father in high *esteem*. [=he respects and admires his father] • That type of job is *held* in low *esteem* [=is poorly regarded] by most people. — see also SELF-ESTEEM

²**esteem** *verb* es·teems; es·teemed; es·teem·ing [+ *obj*] *formal* : to think very highly or favorably of (someone or something) — usually used as (*be*) *esteemed* • She *is* (highly) *esteemed* for her work with cancer patients. • an actor *esteemed* [=admired] by all his peers • an *esteemed* author/artist/colleague

esthete, esthetic *variant spellings of AESTHETE, AESTHETIC*

es·ti·ma·ble /'estəməbəl/ *adj* [more ~; most ~] *formal* : deserving respect : ADMIRABLE • She has written an *estimable* novel. • We owe thanks to our *estimable* colleague.

¹**es·ti·mate** /'estəmət/ *noun*, *pl* -mates

1 [*count*] : a guess that you make based on the information

you have about the size, amount, etc., of something • According to government *estimates*, current oil reserves are 10 percent lower than they were a year ago. • One conservative *estimate* is that he stole five million dollars. • At a (very) rough *estimate*, the job will take three months.

2 [count] : a statement about how much a job will cost • We solicited several *estimates* for the project. • The contractor's *estimate* for the job seemed high.

3 : an opinion or judgment about how good or bad something is [singular] He has a high *estimate* [=opinion, estimation] of his own abilities. [noncount] The company's products are, by general *estimate*, poorly made.

es·ti·mate /'estə,meɪt/ *verb* -mates; -mat·ed; -mat·ing [+obj] : to give or form a general idea about the value, size, or cost of (something) : to make an estimate of (something) • They *estimated* the distance at/as about three miles. • We need to *estimate* how much paint we'll need for the job. • The cost of the project has been *estimated* at/as about 10 million dollars. • He *estimates* that current oil reserves are 20 percent lower than they were a year ago. • Damage from the hurricane is *estimated* (to be) in the billions of dollars.

— **estimated** *adj* • An *estimated* 50,000 people were in attendance. — **es·ti·ma·tor** /'estə,meɪtə/ *noun*, *pl* -tors [count]

es·ti·ma·tion /,estə'meɪʃən/ *noun*, *pl* -tions

1 [singular] *formal* : a judgment or opinion about something • My *estimation* of his films was never very high. [=I never thought his films were very good] • This is not, *in my estimation*, an efficient use of our resources. • She went down *in her supporters' estimation* after she voted against the plan.

2 a [noncount] : the act of judging the size, amount, cost, etc., of something : the act of estimating something • Planning the project requires careful cost *estimation*. • By his own *estimation* [=estimate] he had wrecked six different cars.

b [count] : a guess about the size, amount, cost, etc., of something • My *estimation* [(more commonly) *estimate*] of the amount of materials we needed was wrong.

es·trange /'streɪndʒ/ *verb* -trang·es; -tranged; -trang·ing [+obj] *formal*

1 : to cause someone to be no longer friendly or close to another person or group — usually + *from* • His political beliefs have *estranged* him *from* his family. — often used as (be) *estranged* • They are *estranged from* their children. • an *estranged couple* [=a married couple who no longer live together] • her *estranged husband* [=her husband, who no longer lives with her] • an *estranged wife* [=a wife who no longer lives with her husband]

2 : to cause someone to be no longer involved or connected with something — usually + *from* • This decision *estranged* her *from* the church. • He felt *estranged from* his past life.

— **es·trange·ment** /'streɪndʒmənt/ *noun* [noncount] • His *estrangement from* his family was deeply painful.

es·tro·gen (US) or *Brit* **oes·tro·gen** /'estrədʒən, *Brit* 'i:stɹədʒən/ *noun* [noncount] *medical* : a substance (called a hormone) that occurs naturally in women ♦ Estrogen plays an important role in the development of the female characteristics of a woman's body.

— **es·tro·gen·ic** (US) or *Brit* **oes·tro·gen·ic** /,estrə'dʒenɪk, *Brit* ,i:stɹə'dʒenɪk/ *adj*, *technical* • *estrogenic* chemicals

es·tu·ary /'estʃə,weri, *Brit* 'estʃuəri/ *noun*, *pl* -ar·ies [count] : an area where a river flows into the sea

ETA *abbr* estimated time of arrival • The flight's *ETA* is 5:00 p.m. [=the flight is expected to arrive at around 5:00 p.m.]

e·tail /'i:,teɪl/ *noun* [noncount] : the business of using the Internet to sell products directly to the people who will use them • growing opportunities in *e-tail* — often used before another noun • an *e-tail* store/site • *e-tail* sales

— **e·tail·er** /'i:,teɪlə/ *noun*, *pl* -ers [count] • a book *e-tailer* [=an online bookstore]

et al. /,et'ɑ:l, ,et'æl/ *abbr* and others — used to shorten a list of names • a paper written by Jones, Smith, *et al.* ♦ The abbreviation *et al.* comes from a Latin phrase that means “and others.”

etc. *abbr* et cetera

et cet·era /et'setərə/ : and other things of the same kind : and so forth — in writing usually used in its abbreviated form *etc.* • They accuse us of being fat, stupid, lazy, *etc.* • He brought a tent, sleeping bag, *etc.*, when he came to visit.

etch /'etʃ/ *verb* etch·es; etched; etch·ing [+obj] : to produce a pattern, design, etc., by using a powerful liquid (called an acid) to cut the surface of metal or glass • *etched* an identification number on the back of the television • glass

that has been *etched* with an identification number — often used figuratively • That trip is *etched* in her memory. [=she will never forget that trip] • Pain/sorrow was *etched* [=was shown very clearly] on his face.

— **etch·er** *noun*, *pl* -ers [count] • a skillful painter and *etcher*

etching /'etʃɪŋ/ *noun*, *pl* -ings [count] : a picture made by putting ink on an etched piece of metal and then pressing paper against the metal

et·er·nal /'tənəl/ *adj*

1 : having no beginning and no end in time : lasting forever • *eternal* life • *eternal* damnation • *eternal* bliss • the *eternal* flames of hell • light an *eternal flame* [=a small fire that is kept burning as a symbol to show that something will never end]

2 : existing at all times : always true or valid • *eternal* [=timeless] truths • in search of *eternal* wisdom

3 : seeming to last forever • When will his *eternal* whining stop?

— **et·er·nal·ly** *adv* • I will be *eternally* grateful for your help. • *eternally* young

et·er·ni·ty /'tənəti/ *noun*

1 [noncount] : time without an end • She promised to love him for all *eternity*. [=to love him forever]

2 [noncount] : a state that comes after death and never ends • They believed that sinners would spend *eternity* in hell.

3 [singular] : time that seems to be without an end • I waited (for) an *eternity* for my car to be fixed. • We suffered through an *eternity* of delays during the lawsuit.

— **eth** see -TH

eth·a·nol /'eθə,nɑ:l/ *noun* [noncount] *technical* : ALCOHOL 1 — used especially to refer to alcohol when it is used as a fuel

• a car that uses a mixture of *ethanol* and gasoline for fuel

ether /'i:θə/ *noun* [noncount]

1 : a liquid that burns easily, that is used to turn solid substances into liquid, and that was used in medicine in the past to prevent patients from feeling pain during operations

2 the ether : the air : the sky • The balloon disappeared into *the ether*. • plucked an answer out of *the ether* [=out of thin air] — used especially when describing electronic signals that travel through the air • broadcasting radio signals *into the ether* • sent a message *over/through the ether*

ethe·re·al /'θiəriəl/ *adj* [more ~; most ~] *formal*

1 a : in heaven • *ethereal* heights **b** : resembling heaven : seeming to belong to another world • The windows give the church an *ethereal* glow. • *ethereal* music

2 : very delicate • an *ethereal* ballet dancer • *ethereal* elegance • His writing is filled with *ethereal* [=airy] abstractions.

— **ethe·re·al·ly** *adv* • an *ethereally* beautiful image

Ether·net /'i:θə,net/ *noun* [noncount] *technical* : a system of wires and devices for connecting computers so that they can work together

eth·ic /'eθɪk/ *noun*, *pl* -ics

1 [count] : rules of behavior based on ideas about what is morally good and bad • the Protestant/Puritan *ethic* — usually plural • legal/medical *ethics* • government/journalistic/professional *ethics* • His *ethics* are questionable. [=some of the things he does may be morally wrong] • The company has its own *code of ethics*. [=its own set of rules about good and bad behavior]

2 ethics [noncount] : an area of study that deals with ideas about what is good and bad behavior : a branch of philosophy dealing with what is morally right or wrong • *Ethics* is his chosen field of study.

3 [count] : a belief that something is very important — usually singular • a peace *ethic* • People here have a strong *work ethic*. [=a strong belief in the importance and value of work]

eth·i·cal /'eθɪkəl/ *adj*

1 : involving questions of right and wrong behavior : relating to ethics • *ethical* [=moral] principles/standards • *ethical* theories/problems

2 [more ~; most ~] : following accepted rules of behavior : morally right and good • Some doctors feel that this procedure is not medically *ethical*. • favoring the *ethical* [=humane] treatment of animals — opposite UNETHICAL

— **eth·i·cal·ly** /'eθɪkli/ *adv* • behaving *ethically* [=in a way that is right and good] • *ethically* dubious behavior [=behavior that may be morally wrong] • Her involvement in the case was *ethically* wrong.

eth·nic /'eθnɪk/ *adj*

1 : of or relating to races or large groups of people who have the same customs, religion, origin, etc. • The U.S. has a wide variety of *ethnic* groups made up of immigrants or their de-

E

scendants. • *ethnic* Germans/Chinese [=people whose culture or background is German/Chinese] • *ethnic* violence/fighting [=violence/fighting between different ethnic groups] • *ethnic minorities* [=people who belong to an ethnic group that is a relatively small part of a population]

2 : associated with or belonging to a particular race or group of people who have a culture that is different from the main culture of a country • an *ethnic* neighborhood • *ethnic* customs • I love *ethnic* food/restaurants.

— **eth-ni-cal-ly** /'eθnikli/ *adv* • an *ethnically* diverse population — **eth-nic-i-ty** /eθ'nɪsəti/ *noun, pl -ties* [count] people of different *ethnicities* [=people who belong to different ethnic groups] [noncount] groups separated by race and ethnicity

E **2 ethnic** *noun, pl -nics* [count] chiefly US : a person who belongs to a particular ethnic group — used chiefly in newspapers and magazines • trying to win the votes of blacks and of white *ethnics* • urban *ethnics*

ethnic cleansing *noun* [noncount] : the practice of removing or killing people who belong to an ethnic group that is different from the ruling group in a country or region

eth-no-cen-tric /,eθnou'sentrik/ *adj* [more ~; most ~] *disapproving* : having or based on the idea that your own group or culture is better or more important than others • The review was criticized for its *ethnocentric* bias.

— **eth-no-cen-tric-ity** /,eθnousesen'trɪsəti/ *noun* [noncount]

— **eth-no-cen-trism** /,eθnou'sen,trizəm/ *noun* [noncount]

eth-nog-ra-phy /eθ'nɑ:grəfi/ *noun* [noncount] : the study of human races and cultures

— **eth-nog-ra-pher** /eθ'nɑ:grəfə/ *noun, pl -phers* [count]

— **eth-no-graph-ic** /,eθnə'græfɪk/ *adj* • *ethnographic* research — **eth-no-graph-i-cal-ly** /,eθnə'græfɪkli/ *adv*

ethos /'i:θɑ:s/ *noun* [singular] *formal* : the guiding beliefs of a person, group, or organization • The company made environmental awareness part of its business *ethos*. • They are working to keep a democratic *ethos* alive in the community. • an *ethos* of arrogance

eth-yl alcohol /'eθəl-/ *noun* [noncount] *technical* : ETHANOL

et-i-quette /'etɪkət/ *noun* [noncount] : the rules indicating the proper and polite way to behave • Her failure to respond to the invitation was a serious breach of *etiquette*. • a book of *etiquette* • telephone *etiquette* [=the proper way to behave when speaking on the telephone]

-ette *noun suffix*

1 : little one • kitchenette

2 : female • majorette

et-y-mol-o-gy /,etə'mɑ:lədʒi/ *noun, pl -gies*

1 [count] : an explanation of where a word came from : the history of a word • According to its *etymology*, the English word “dope” comes from the Dutch word “doop” (which means “sauce”). • Several different *etymologies* have been proposed.

2 [noncount] : the study of word histories • an expert in *etymology*

— **et-y-mo-log-i-cal** /,etə,mə'lɑ:ɢɪkəl/ *adj* • *etymological* research • an *etymological* dictionary/expert — **et-y-mo-log-i-cal-ly** /,etə,mə'lɑ:ɢɪkli/ *adv* • The words are related *etymologically*. — **et-y-mol-o-gist** /,etə'mɑ:lədʒɪst/ *noun, pl -gists* [count] • a brilliant *etymologist*

EU *abbr* European Union

eu-ca-lyp-tus /,ju:kə'liptəs/ *noun, pl -tus-es also -ti* /,ju:kə'liptəɪ/ [count] : a type of tree that grows naturally in western Australia and that is grown in other places for the products (such as wood and oil) that it provides

Eu-char-ist /'ju:kərəst/ *noun*

the Eucharist : a Christian ceremony in which bread is eaten and wine is drunk as a way of showing devotion to Jesus Christ : COMMUNION • celebrate *the Eucharist*

— **Eu-char-is-tic** /'ju:kə'rɪstɪk/ *adj*

eu-gen-ics /ju'dʒenɪks/ *noun* [noncount] : a science that tries to improve the human race by controlling which people become parents

eu-lo-gize *also* *Brit eu-lo-gise* /'ju:lə,ɢaɪz/ *verb -giz-es; -gized; -giz-ing* [+ *obj*] : to say or write good things about (someone or something); *especially* : to praise (someone who has died) in a eulogy • He was *eulogized* at his funeral as a great actor and a good friend.

— **eu-lo-gist** /'ju:ləɢɪst/ *noun, pl -gists* [count] • described by his *eulogist* as a great actor

eu-lo-gy /'ju:ləɢi/ *noun, pl -gies* [count] : a speech that

praises someone who has died • He delivered a moving *eulogy* at his father's funeral. ♦ *Eulogy* can refer to any speech expressing praise, but it almost always refers to a funeral speech. — compare ELEGY

eu-nuch /'ju:nək/ *noun, pl eu-nuchs* [count] : a man who has had his sexual organs removed

eu-phe-mism /'ju:fə,mɪzəm/ *noun, pl -misms* [count] : a mild or pleasant word or phrase that is used instead of one that is unpleasant or offensive • using “eliminate” as a *euphemism* for “kill”

— **eu-phe-mis-tic** /,ju:fə'mɪstɪk/ *adj* [more ~; most ~] • *euphemistic* language — **eu-phe-mis-ti-cal-ly** /,ju:fə'mɪstɪkli/ *adv* • The prison was *euphemistically* referred to as a “correctional facility.”

eu-pho-ni-ous /ju'founɪjəs/ *adj* [more ~; most ~] *formal* : having a pleasant sound • a *euphonious* name • *euphonious* harmonies

eu-pho-ria /ju'fɔriə/ *noun* [noncount] : a feeling of great happiness and excitement • The initial *euphoria* following their victory in the election has now subsided. • The drug produces intense feelings of *euphoria*.

— **eu-phor-ic** /ju'fɔrɪk/ *adj* [more ~; most ~] • a *euphoric* mood • feeling *euphoric* • *euphoric* effects of a drug — **eu-phor-i-cal-ly** /ju'fɔrɪkli/ *adv*

Eur-asian /ju'reɪzən/ *adj*

1 : of or relating to both Europe and Asia • a *Eurasian* empire • a *Eurasian* species of bird

2 : having ancestors from both Europe and Asia • a *Eurasian* child

— **Eurasian** *noun, pl -asians* [count]

eu-re-ka /ju'ri:kə/ *interj* — used to express excitement when a discovery has been made • He held up the gold and shouted “*Eureka!* I have found it!”

eu-ro /'jʊrou/ *noun, pl -ros also -ro* [count] : a monetary unit used by countries of the European Union since 1999 • was sold for 100,000 *euros*

Euro- or Eur- *combining form* : Europe : European : European and • *Euro-American* relations • *Eurasian*

Eu-ro-pe-an /,jʊrə,pi:jən/ *noun, pl -ans* [count]

1 : a person born, raised, or living in Europe; *also* : a native or resident of the continent of Europe rather than Britain

2 : a person who is descended from Europeans

— **European** *adj* • *European* history

eu-tha-na-sia /,ju:θə'neɪzə/ *noun* [noncount] : the act or practice of killing someone who is very sick or injured in order to prevent any more suffering • a *physician* who refuses to practice *euthanasia* — called also *mercy killing*

evac-u-ate /'ɪvækjə,weɪt/ *verb -ates; -at-ed; -at-ing*

1 [+ *obj*] : to remove (someone) from a dangerous place • People who live along the coast are being *evacuated* as the hurricane approaches. • During World War II, children were *evacuated* from London to the country.

2 : to leave (a dangerous place) [+ *obj*] Residents were ordered to *evacuate* the building. [no *obj*] Residents have been ordered to *evacuate*.

3 [+ *obj*] *medical* : to pass (solid waste) from your body • *evacuate* your bowels

— **evac-u-a-tion** /'ɪvækjə'weɪʃən/ *noun, pl -tions* [noncount] Many nations are assisting in the *evacuation* of the refugees. [count] repeated *evacuations* of the embassy

evac-u-ee /'ɪvækjə'wi:/ *noun, pl -ees* [count] : a person who has been removed from a dangerous place : a person who has been evacuated • One hundred *evacuees* spent the night at a school during the storm.

evade /'ɪveɪd/ *verb evades; evad-ed; evad-ing* [+ *obj*]

1 a : to stay away from (someone or something) : to avoid (someone or something) • The criminals have so far managed to *evade* the police. • They have *evaded* capture/arrest. [=have avoided being captured/arrested] • His criminal activities somehow *evaded* detection. [=were not detected] **b** : to avoid dealing with or facing (something) • a politician skilled at *evading* difficult questions • The governor has been accused of *evading* the issue. **c** : to avoid doing (something required) • illegally *evading* taxes [=failing to pay taxes]

2 a : to not be understood by (someone) • Their purpose in doing this *evades* me. [=I don't understand their purpose] **b** : to fail to be achieved by (someone) • Up to now, success has *evaded* [=eluded] me.

— **evad-er** *noun, pl -ers* [count] • tax *evaders*

eval-u-ate /'ɪvæljə,weɪt/ *verb -ates; -at-ed; -at-ing* [+ *obj*] : to judge the value or condition of (someone or something) in a careful and thoughtful way • We need to *evaluate* our op-

tions. • *evaluate* a job candidate • *evaluate* a training program as effective/ineffective

— **eval-u-a-tion** /ɪˈvæljəˈweɪʃən/ *noun*, *pl* -tions [count] make/do an *evaluation* of the program • He's been ordered to undergo/have/get a psychiatric *evaluation*. • teacher *evaluations* [noncount] The program will be undergoing careful *evaluation*. — **eval-u-a-tive** /ɪˈvæljəˈweɪtɪv, Brit ɪˈvæljuətɪv/ *adj*, *formal* • *evaluative* procedures/criteria — **eval-u-a-tor** /ɪˈvæljəˈweɪtər/ *noun*, *pl* -tors [count]

ev-a-nes-cent /ˌɛvəˈnesnt/ *adj* [more ~; most ~] *formal* + *literary* : lasting a very short time • *evanescent* fame

— **ev-a-nes-cence** /ˌɛvəˈnesns/ *noun* [noncount]

evan-gel-i-cal /ˌiːˈvænˈdʒelɪkəl/ *adj* [more ~; most ~]

1 : of or relating to a Christian sect or group that stresses the authority of the Bible, the importance of believing that Jesus Christ saved you personally from sin or hell, and the preaching of these beliefs to other people • the *evangelical* movement • She is an *evangelical* Christian.

2 : having or showing very strong and enthusiastic feelings • He spoke about the project with *evangelical* zeal.

— **evangelical** or **Evangelical** *noun*, *pl* -cals [count] • She is an *Evangelical*. — **evan-gel-i-cal-ly** /ˌiːˈvænˈdʒelɪkli/ *adv*

evan-ge-list /ɪˈvændʒəlɪst/ *noun*, *pl* -lists [count]

1 : a person and especially a preacher who tries to convince people to become Christian — see also TELEVANGELIST

2 : someone who talks about something with great enthusiasm • an *evangelist* of space exploration • software *evangelists*

3 or **Evangelist** : a writer of any of the Gospels in the Bible • St. John the *Evangelist*

— **evan-ge-lism** /ɪˈvændʒəlɪzəm/ *noun* [noncount] • television *evangelism* — **evan-ge-lis-tic** /ɪˈvændʒəˈlɪstɪk/ *adj* [more ~; most ~] • He spoke with *evangelistic* [=evangelical] zeal. • the *evangelistic* movement

evan-ge-lize also *Brit* **evan-ge-lise** /ɪˈvændʒəˈlaɪz/ *verb* -liz-es; -lized; -liz-ing : to try to convert (a group or area) to a different religion (especially Christianity) [+ *obj*] The missionaries set out to *evangelize* the world. — often used figuratively • They *evangelized* their neighbors about the importance of saving energy. [no *obj*] They were *evangelizing* about the importance of saving energy.

— **evan-ge-li-za-tion** also *Brit* **evan-ge-li-sa-tion** /ɪˈvændʒələˈzeɪʃən, Brit ɪˈvændʒəˈlaɪˈzeɪʃən/ *noun* [noncount]

evap-o-rate /ɪˈvæpəˈreɪt/ *verb* -rates; -rat-ed; -rat-ing

1 : to change from a liquid into a gas [no *obj*] Let the liquid start to *evaporate*. [+ *obj*] The heat *evaporated* the water.

2 [no *obj*] : to go away suddenly : to disappear or vanish • The opportunity *evaporated* before he could act on it.

— **evap-o-ra-tion** /ɪˈvæpəˈreɪʃən/ *noun* [noncount] • water loss through *evaporation* — **evap-o-ra-tive** /ɪˈvæpəˈreɪtɪv/ *adj*, *technical* • *evaporative* cooling — **evap-o-ra-tor** /ɪˈvæpəˈreɪtər/ *noun*, *pl* -tors [count] • The boiling takes place in machines called *evaporators*.

evaporated milk *noun* [noncount] : canned milk from which most of the water has been removed — compare CONDENSED MILK

eva-sion /ɪˈveɪʒən/ *noun*, *pl* -sions

1 **a** [noncount] : the act of avoiding something that you do not want to do or deal with : the act of evading something • He was arrested for tax/draft *evasion*. **b** [count] : a way of avoiding something • They came up with an *evasion* of the law to keep all the land for themselves.

2 [count] : a statement or action that avoids directly dealing with something (such as a difficult problem or question) • His reply was nothing but careful *evasions*.

eva-sive /ɪˈveɪsɪv/ *adj* [more ~; most ~]

1 : not honest or direct • She gave an *evasive* answer.

2 : done to avoid harm, an accident, etc. • They took *evasive* action to avoid capture. • an *evasive* maneuver

— **eva-sive-ly** *adv* • She answered *evasively*. — **eva-sive-ness** *noun* [noncount]

eve /iːv/ *noun*, *pl* **eves** [count]

1 *literary* : EVENING • one pleasant summer's *eve* • " . . . from noon to dewy *eve* . . . " — John Milton, *Paradise Lost* (1667)

2 : the evening or the day before a special day — usually singular • New Year's *Eve* • Christmas *Eve*

3 : the period of time just before an important event — used in the phrase *on the eve of* • The students were nervous *on the eve of* their graduation.

¹**even** /iːvən/ *adj*

1 [more ~; most ~] **a** : having a flat, smooth, or level sur-

face • We finally reached *even* ground after the long climb. • The ground became more *even*. [=level] **b** : not having breaks or bumps • an *even* coastline • The transition was *even* [=smooth] and slow.

2 : located next to someone or something else • They slowed down and waited for him to draw *even*. — often + *with* • The houses are lined up *even with* each other. [=lined up so that neither one is in front of or behind the other]

3 : not changing : staying the same • She spoke with a calm, *even* voice. • the *even* beat of the drum • He was maintaining an *even* [=constant] speed.

4 **a** [more ~; most ~] : equal and fair : not giving an advantage to one side or group • an *even* trade • He favors a more *even* distribution of wealth. • Everyone should have an *even* chance. **b** : having nothing owed by either side • Here's the money I owe you. Now we're *even*. [=now we don't owe each other anything] **c** : not likely to be won easily by one side or another • an *even* match

5 **a of a number** : able to be divided by two into two equal whole numbers • 2, 4, 6, and 8 are *even* numbers; 1, 3, 5, and 7 are odd numbers. **b** : marked by an even number • the *even* and odd pages of a book **c** *always used before a noun* : not more or less than a stated amount • That'll cost you an *even* dollar. [=that'll cost you exactly one dollar] • an *even* dozen

6 — used to say that something is as likely to happen as to not happen • He stands an *even* [=fifty-fifty] chance of winning. • Our chances of success or failure are about *even*.

break even see ¹BREAK

get even : to do something bad or unpleasant to someone who has treated you badly or unfairly • He vowed that he would *get even* (with them) for the way he'd been treated.

on an even keel see ¹KEEL

— **even-ly** *adv* • The money was distributed *evenly*. • The committee was *evenly* divided. • The two teams are *evenly* matched. • Apply pressure slowly and *evenly*. — **even-ness** /iːˈvənnəs/ *noun* [noncount] • the *evenness* of the lighting/distribution/match

²**even** *adv*

1 — used to stress something that is surprising or unlikely • It's so simple that *even* a child can do it. • Not only did she stay in business, she *even* managed to make a profit. • They've changed everything about the place, *even* the color! • They've changed the doors, the carpets, the color, *even*!

2 — used to stress the difference between two things that are being compared • His first book was good, but this one is *even* better. • An *even* bigger change came the next year.

3 — used after a negative word (such as *not* or a contraction of *not*) to stress the smallness of an amount or effort • Not only didn't they help, they didn't *even* offer to help! • We thought he'd be interested in the painting, but he didn't *even* glance at it. • She didn't *even* give him a second thought.

4 — used to stress something that goes beyond what has just been mentioned in some way (such as by being stronger or more specific) • They were willing, *even* eager, to help. • The disease can cause brain damage and *even* death.

even as : at the same time as • They are finishing the job *even as* we speak. [=they are finishing the job right now]

even if — used to stress that something will happen despite something else that might prevent it • I'm going to the party *even if* it rains. [=whether or not it rains]

even now/then 1 — used to stress that something is or was happening at a particular time • They are *even now* preparing for his arrival. [=they are preparing for his arrival right now] • Enemy troops were *even then* approaching the city.

2 — used to stress that something (such as a person's attitude or behavior) was or is very surprising and unexpected • We showed her the proof, but *even then*, she wouldn't admit she was wrong. • Despite all that went wrong, he insists *even now* that he would do it again.

even so — used to introduce a statement that is somehow different from what has just been said • These problems are not as bad as they were. *Even so*, there is much more work to be done.

even though — used as a stronger way to say "though" or "although" • She stayed with him *even though* he often mistreated her. • I'm going *even though* it may rain.

³**even** *verb* **evens**; **evened**; **even-ing** [+ *obj*] : to make (something) equal • He *evened* [=tied] the set at two games apiece. — see also *even the score* at ¹SCORE

even out [*phrasal verb*] 1 : to become level • After a long climb the ground *evened out*. [=leveled out] 2 **even (something) out or even out (something)** : to make (something)

even and smooth • Let me *even out* the rug. **3 even out or even (something) out or even out (something)** : to reach a balanced or middle state between extremes over a period of time • The economy had good periods and bad periods, but it all *evened out* by the end of the year. • Any variations will be *evened out* eventually.

even-hand-ed /iˈvənˈhændəd/ *adj* [more ~; most ~] : not favoring one side or group over another : FAIR • *evenhanded justice* • I thought it was an *evenhanded* assessment/analysis/treatment of her performance.

— **even-hand-ed-ly** *adv* — **even-hand-ed-ness** *noun* [noncount]

¹even-ing /iˈvniŋ/ *noun, pl -nings* [count]

1 : the last part of the day and early part of the night • We're going out to dinner this *evening*. • He devotes his *evenings* to charity work. • They left on the *evening* of July 26. — often used before another noun • an *evening* walk • We watched the *evening news*. [=a news program broadcast in the evening] • I'm taking two *evening classes*. [=classes for adult students that are scheduled in the evening]

2 : an event or activity that happens during an evening • We're looking forward to an *evening* at the theater. • several fun-filled *evenings* of poker

3 literary : a late part of something (such as a person's life) • He met her in the *evening* of his life.

²evening *present participle of* ³EVEN

evening gown *noun, pl ~ gowns* [count] : a long, formal dress that is worn to evening parties or events — called also *evening dress*; see color picture on page C15

evenings /iˈvniŋz/ *adv, US* : in the evening • He has to work *evenings*.

evening star *noun*

the evening star : the planet Venus when it can be seen in the western sky at sunset or just after sunset — compare MORNING STAR

event /iˈvent/ *noun, pl events* [count]

1 a : something (especially something important or notable) that happens • The article recounted the *events* of the past year. • the last major/big *event* of the summer • He had no memory of the *events* that happened afterwards. • The accident was caused by an unusual *sequence/chain/series of events*. • It's difficult to predict the *course of events* [=to predict what will happen] with any confidence. — see also CURRENT EVENTS **b** : a planned occasion or activity (such as a social gathering) • She likes to arrive at social *events* early. • upcoming *events* • a sporting *event* • a calendar of *events* — see also MEDIA EVENT, NONEVENT

2 : any one of the contests in a sports program • track-and-field *events* • It's the only *event* on the golf tour that she hasn't yet won. • the main *event*

at all events or in any event — used to say that what is being said is true no matter what other things may or may not happen or be true • It's possible that she was too nervous to pay close attention. *At all events* [=in any case, anyway], she does not have all the details quite right. • It is curious, *in any event*, why their decision bothers him so much.

in the event chiefly Brit : when something that was planned or thought about actually happened • We thought the weather might delay us, but, *in the event* [=as it turned out], we were able to leave on time.

in the event of : if (something) happens • *In the event of* rain [=if it rains], the ceremony will be held indoors. • I can call for help *in the event of* an emergency.

in the event (that) : if it happens that (something occurs) : IF • *In the event* you (should) decide not to continue your subscription, you may cancel it at any time. • The insurance policy will provide you with a regular income *in the* (unlikely) *event that* you are injured.

overtaken by events see OVERTAKE

even-tem-pered *adj* [more ~; most ~] : not easily upset or made angry • a very *even-tempered* girl

event-ful /iˈventfəl/ *adj* [more ~; most ~] : having many important things happening • an *eventful* [=busy] day • He led a short but *eventful* life. • It was an extremely *eventful* period in American history.

— **event-ful-ly** *adv* • The day began *eventfully*. — **event-ful-ness** *noun* [noncount]

even-tu-al /iˈventʃəwəl/ *adj* : coming or happening at a later time • our *eventual* success • She lost to the *eventual* champion. [=the person who would later become champion] • This

plant reaches an *eventual* height of 15 feet. [=this plant will grow to be 15 feet high]

even-tu-al-i-ty /iˈventʃəˈwæləti/ *noun, pl -ties* [count] *formal* : something that might happen : a possible event or occurrence • He planned carefully and was ready for any *eventuality*.

even-tu-al-ly /iˈventʃəwəli, iˈventʃəli/ *adv* : at some later time : in the end • *Eventually*, I did get better and returned to work. • I am sure that we'll succeed *eventually*. • Her constant campaigning *eventually* got her the nomination. • This plant *eventually* reaches a height of 15 feet.

ev-er /ˈevə/ *adv*

1 : at any time • The crime rate is higher now than it has *ever* been. • He's forgotten all he's *ever* learned about history. • Have you *ever* been to France? • She's doing fine and is as pretty as *ever*. • No one has *ever* seen a better example of woodwork. • We need your help now more than *ever* (before). • Has this *ever* been done before? • That was my best vacation *ever*. [=the best vacation I have ever had] • Did it *ever* occur to you that I might like more myself? • He's a born politician if *ever* I saw one. [=he is certainly a born politician] • That was the worst movie I *ever* saw. • I don't *ever* want to do that again. = (informal) I don't want to *ever* do that again. = I don't want to do that again, *ever*!

2 formal : at all times • He is *ever* [=always] faithful. • moving *ever* westward • a guard who is *ever* watchful = an *ever-watchful* guard

3 : to a greater degree • Technology in recent years has become *ever* more sophisticated. • The deadline draws *ever* closer. • Millions of farmers were forced into *ever-deeper* debt during the Great Depression.

4 — used after words like *where*, *who*, *how*, and *why* to make a question more forceful • How *ever* can I (possibly) thank you? • What *ever* happened to my former classmates? • Where *ever* did I put my keys? • “I can't do that.” “Why *ever* not?” • Who *ever* would want to go there? — also used in indirect questions • I can't imagine who *ever* would want to go there!

5 US, informal — used to give stress to what follows • Wow, was he *ever* funny! [=he was very funny] • Am I *ever* embarrassed! [=I am very embarrassed]

as ever : as has always been true : as usual • The problem, *as ever*, is to find a better way to control spending.

ever after old-fashioned : from that time forward • She remembered him fondly *ever after*. ♦ Fairy tales sometimes end by saying that the characters in the story *lived happily ever after*. • The prince saved the queen and they all *lived happily ever after*. The phrase *live happily ever after* is also used to describe real people who are being compared in some way to characters in a fairy tale. • His biography tells the story of a poor boy who grew up to be a millionaire and *lived happily ever after*.

ever and anon old-fashioned + literary : at different times : now and then • *Ever and anon* [=every so often] there came the sound of bells.

ever since **1** : continually or often from a past time until now • We both liked the idea and have been working on it *ever since*. [=since then] • I went to the festival its first year and have been returning *ever since*. **2** : continually from the time in the past when : SINCE • She's wanted to be a firefighter *ever since* she was a young girl.

ever so informal : VERY • Thank you *ever so* much. • I'm *ever so* glad that you got better. • The violin was *ever so* slightly out of tune.

ever such chiefly Brit, informal — used as a more forceful way to say “such” • He's *ever such* a nice person! [=he's a very nice person]

for ever (and ever) : FOREVER • I'll love you *for ever and ever*!

hardly/scarcely ever : almost never : RARELY • She *hardly ever* sings anymore. • I *scarcely ever* think of them now.

never ever informal — used especially in speech as a more forceful way to say “never” • He *never ever* wanted to grow up. • I promise to *never ever* do it again.

rarely/seldom ever : almost never : RARELY • We *seldom ever* dine out these days. • She *rarely ever* drinks wine. ♦ Some people regard *rarely ever* and *seldom ever* as incorrect, but these phrase are common in speech and in informal writing.

rarely/seldom if ever — used as a more forceful way to say “rarely” or “seldom” • I have *seldom if ever* been so embarrassed. ♦ *Rarely if ever* and *seldom if ever* can be written both with or without commas • Such radical opinions have

rarely, if ever, been heard here before. • She rarely if ever sings anymore.

Yours ever or Ever yours Brit — used as a way to end an informal letter • *Yours ever*, Robert

ev·er·green /'evə,ɡri:n/ *adj* : having leaves that remain green all year long • Most pines are *evergreen* trees. • *evergreen* forests/leaves

— **evergreen** /'evə,ɡri:n/ *noun, pl -greens* [count] • Most pine trees are *evergreens*.

ev·er·last·ing /,evə'læstɪŋ, Brit ,evə'lɑ:stɪŋ/ *adj* : lasting forever • *everlasting* love = love *everlasting* • To his *everlasting* credit, he never once gave in to temptation.

— **ev·er·last·ing·ly** *adv* • We are *everlastingly* hopeful.

ev·ery /'evri/ *adj*

1 : including each person or thing in a group or series • I heard *every* word you said. • He devotes *every* spare moment to his hobby. • His *every* move was carefully watched. • She's beautiful in *every* way/respect. • Ceramics of *every* kind were on display. • We have *every* reason to believe (that) he's telling the truth. [=we have no reason not to believe him] • He looked closely at *every last one* [=every one] of them. • They were questioning *every little thing* [=everything] she said. • He provided them with guidance *every step of the way*. [=throughout the entire process] • *Every time* [=whenever] I go there I learn something new. • We're *making every effort* [=we're doing all that we can] to solve the problem.

2 a — used to describe how often some repeated activity, event, etc., happens or is done • She drives to town *every* few days. • *Every* day she starts work at 8 a.m. • The fair is held *every other/second* year. [=the fair is held one year, not held the next year, held the following year, and so on] **b** — used to describe how far apart the things in a series of things are placed from each other • They placed a marker *every* 20 yards or so. **c** — used in phrases like *one in every three* to describe how common something is • problems that affect *one in every three* people

3 : not lacking in any way • I have *every* [=complete, total] confidence in you.

at every turn see ²TURN

each and every see ¹EACH

every bit see ¹BIT

every expectation of see EXPECTATION

every man for himself see ¹MAN

every now and then/again or every once in a while or every so often : sometimes but not often : from time to time : OCCASIONALLY • We still see each other *every now and then*. • They would get together *every now and again*. • *Every so often* she'd come in to check on him.

every which way *US, informal* **1** : in every direction • Bullets were flying *every which way*. **2** : in a disorderly manner • The papers were stacked *every which way*.

ev·ery·body /'evri,bədi, 'evri,bɑ:di, Brit 'evri,bɒdi/ *pronoun*

1 : every person : EVERYONE • The president waved to *everybody* in the crowd. • *Everybody* hates to hear bad news.

2 : every important person • *Everybody* will be there.

ev·ery·day /'evri,dei/ *adj, always used before a noun* : used or seen every day : suitable for every day • *everyday* clothes • Don't let the problems of *everyday* life get you down. • She uses a variety of *everyday* [=familiar, ordinary] objects in her art. • *everyday* [=ordinary] people

ev·ery·man or Ev·ery·man /'evri,mæn/ *noun* [singular] : the typical, ordinary person • an actor who is seen as the image of *everyman*

ev·ery·one /'evri,wʌn/ *pronoun* : every person : EVERYBODY • He hated the movie but *everyone* else enjoyed it. • Not *everyone* got the joke.

ev·ery·place /'evri,pleis/ *adv, US* : EVERYWHERE • We've been seeing them *everyplace*. • We see them *everyplace* we go.

ev·ery·thing /'evri,θɪŋ/ *pronoun*

1 a : every thing there is : all that exists • People will buy *everything* she paints. • I didn't agree with *everything* he said. • What do you buy for the man who has *everything*? **b** : all that is related to a particular subject • Tell us *everything* that happened. • He denied *everything* about the incident. ♠ The phrase *everything from (something) to (something)* is used to show the wide range of things that are included in something. • The company makes *everything from golf tees to diapers*. • Her paintings have been called *everything from childish to brilliant*.

2 : all that is important • To him, money is *everything*. [=he only cares about money] • She means *everything* to me.

3 informal : the things that are happening in a person's life • How's *everything*? • *Everything* is fine. • We're pretty happy with *everything* right now. ♠ Phrases like *How's everything?* and *How's everything going?* are used, especially in U.S. English, as informal ways to say "How are you?"

and everything informal : and other things like that • I like being out in the forest with all the birds and trees *and everything*. • He has a lot on his mind, what with his health problems *and everything*.

carry everything before you see ¹CARRY

ev·ery·where /'evri,weə/ *adv* : in or to every place • *Everywhere* we went, people were friendly. • His new book is anxiously awaited by fans *everywhere*. • I seem to hear his music *everywhere* these days! • We went *everywhere* we could.

evict /'ɪvɪkt/ *verb* **evicts; evicted; evicting** [+ *obj*] : to force (someone) to leave a place • His landlord has threatened to *evict* him if he doesn't pay the rent soon. • They were *evicted* from their apartment.

— **evic·tion** /'ɪvɪkʃən/ *noun, pl -tions* [noncount] He was threatened with *eviction* for failing to pay the rent. [count] unlawful *evictions*

¹ev·i·dence /'evədəns/ *noun, pl -denc-es*

1 a [noncount] : something which shows that something else exists or is true • There is no *evidence* that these devices actually work. • He has been unable to find *evidence* to support his theory. • She first showed/gave *evidence* of her abilities [=she first showed her abilities] at an early age. • Investigators could find no *evidence* linking him to the crime. • He denies that he was involved, despite (abundant/ample) *evidence* to the contrary. [=despite evidence indicating that he was involved] **b** [count] chiefly *US, somewhat formal* : a visible sign of something — usually plural • They found many *evidences* of neglect.

2 [noncount] : material that is presented to a court of law to help find the truth about something • The jury had a great deal of *evidence* to sort through before reaching a verdict. • There is not a scrap/shred of *evidence* in her favor. • circumstantial *evidence* • Anything you say may be used as/in *evidence* against you. • The letter was admitted in *evidence*. = (chiefly *US*) The letter was admitted into *evidence*. [=the letter was accepted by the court as evidence] • You may be asked to *give evidence* [=testify] at the trial. — see also STATE'S EVIDENCE

in evidence : easily seen • Her charm was very much *in evidence* throughout the meeting. • Their former confidence is now *nowhere in evidence*. [=nowhere to be seen, entirely absent]

²evidence *verb -denc-es; -denced; -denc-ing* [+ *obj*] *formal* : to offer or show evidence of (something) : to show or indicate (something) • certificates *evidencing* stock ownership — often used as (be) *evidenced* • The effectiveness of the program is clearly *evidenced* [=shown] by the recent decrease in drug-related crimes throughout the city.

as (is) evidenced by : as is clearly shown by • She has become known for the power of her writing, *as (is) evidenced by* the popularity of her new book. • There clearly were settlements here, *as evidenced by* these remains.

ev·i·dent /'evədənt/ *adj* [more ~; most ~] : clear to the sight or mind : OBVIOUS • She spoke with *evident* anguish about the death of her son. • The problems have been *evident* for quite some time. — compare SELF-EVIDENT

ev·i·dent·ly /'evədəntli, ,evə'dentli/ *adv*

1 : in a way that can be easily seen or noticed : in an evident way • He was *evidently* [=obviously] uncomfortable. • *Evidently* you and I have different feelings on this issue. • "We seem to have different feelings on this issue." "*Evidently!*"

2 — used to describe something that appears to be true based on what is known • Ancient Spartans were *evidently* taught to prefer death to dishonor. • *Evidently* [=apparently] nobody saw them leave.

¹evil /'i:vəl/ *adj* **evil·er; evil·est** [or more ~; most ~]

1 : morally bad • an *evil* villain • *evil* spirits • *evil* deeds

2 a : causing harm or injury to someone • She drank an *evil* potion. **b** : marked by bad luck or bad events • The city has fallen on *evil* days/times. **c** : very unpleasant or offensive • an *evil* smell • an *evil* temper **d** : showing that something bad will happen • It was an *evil* omen.

— **evil·ly** *adv* • He grinned *evilly*. — **evil·ness** *noun* [non-count]

²evil *noun, pl evils*

1 [noncount] : the force of things that are morally bad • the

battle of good versus *evil* • He believed that the world was full of *evil*. [=wickedness]

2 [count] : something that is harmful or bad — usually plural • They were talking about the *evils* of alcohol. • all the *evils* that plague us ✧ The *lesser of two evils* or the *lesser evil* is the better choice between two unpleasant choices. • Since neither candidate is appealing, voters are forced to choose the *lesser of two evils*. • Which candidate would be the *lesser evil*? ✧ A *necessary evil* is a bad or unwanted thing that has to be done or accepted to achieve some good result.

• He thinks of taxes as a *necessary evil*.

evil-doer /i:vəl'du:wə/ noun, pl **-ers** [count] : a person who does bad or evil things • The sheriff is protecting the community from *evildoers*.

— **evil-doing** /i:vəl'du:wiŋ/ noun, pl **-ings** [noncount] no evidence of *evildoing* [=wrongdoing] [count] his defense of his *evildoings*

evil eye noun

the evil eye : a look that is thought to be able to harm someone • He gave her *the evil eye*.

evil-minded /i:vəl'maɪndəd/ adj [more ~; most ~] : thinking bad or evil thoughts : having a morally bad mind or character • an *evil-minded* villain

— **evil-minded-ness** noun [noncount]

evince /i'vɪns/ verb **evinc-es; evinced; evinc-ing** [+ obj] formal : to show (something) clearly • She *evinced* an interest in art at an early age.

eviscerate /i'vɪsə'reɪt/ verb **-ates; -at-ed; -at-ing** [+ obj] formal : to take out the internal organs of (an animal) : DIS-EMBOWEL • tools used for *eviscerating* [=gutting] fish — often used figuratively • Opponents charge that the amendment would *eviscerate* [=badly weaken] the new law.

evo-ca-tion /i:vou'keɪʃən/ noun, pl **-tions** : the act of bringing something into the mind or memory : the act of evoking something [count] rich *evocations* of the sights, sounds, and smells of the carnival [noncount] the *evocation* of a simpler time

evoc-a-tive /i'vɑ:kətv/ adj [more ~; most ~] : bringing thoughts, memories, or feelings into the mind • He wrote a powerful and *evocative* biography. — often + of • His photographs are *evocative* of the solitude of the desert.

evoke /i'vouk/ verb **evokes; evoked; evok-ing** [+ obj]

1 : to bring (a memory, feeling, image, etc.) into the mind • The old house *evoked* memories of his childhood. • His photographs *evoke* the isolation and solitude of the desert.

2 : to cause (a particular reaction or response) to happen • His wisecrack *evoked* [=elicited] snickers from around the classroom. • Her remarks have *evoked* [=provoked] an angry response.

ev-o-lu-tion /evə'lu:ʃən/ noun [noncount]

1 biology a : a theory that the differences between modern plants and animals are because of changes that happened by a natural process over a very long time • the theory of *evolution* **b** : the process by which changes in plants and animals happen over time • changes brought about by *evolution*

2 : a process of slow change and development • an important step in the *evolution* of computers • We have been able to watch her *evolution* [=growth] into a world-class runner.

— **ev-o-lu-tion-ary** /evə'lu:ʃənəri/ adj • *evolutionary* changes/development/history — **ev-ol-u-tion-ist** /evə'lu:ʃənɪst/ noun, pl **-ists** [count] • a brilliant *evolutionist*

evolve /i'vɑ:lv/ verb **evolves; evolved; evolv-ing** : to change or develop slowly often into a better, more complex, or more advanced state : to develop by a process of evolution [no obj] Some believe that birds *evolved* from dinosaurs. = Some believe that dinosaurs *evolved* into birds. • Her company has *evolved* from a hobby into a thriving business. [+ obj] Some flowers have *evolved* remarkable means of insect pollination.

ewe /'ju:/ noun, pl **ewes** [count] : a female sheep — compare ¹LAMB, ¹RAM

ew-er /'ju:wə/ noun, pl **ew-ers** [count] : a type of pitcher or jug that is shaped like a vase and that was used in the past for holding water

ex /'eks/ noun, pl **ex-es** [count] informal : a former husband, wife, boyfriend, or girlfriend • I ran into my *ex* at the mall yesterday.

ex- /'eks/ prefix : former • *ex-president* • *ex-girlfriend* • *ex-husband*

ex-ac-er-bate /ɪg'zæsə'beɪt/ verb **-bates; -bat-ed; -bat-ing** [+ obj] : to make (a bad situation, a problem, etc.) worse • The proposed factory shutdown would only *exacerbate* our

unemployment problems. • His angry comments have *exacerbated* tensions in the negotiation process.

— **ex-ac-er-ba-tion** /ɪg,zæsə'beɪʃən/ noun [noncount] • the *exacerbation* of symptoms/problems/tensions

¹**exact** /ɪg'zækt/ adj

1 : fully and completely correct or accurate • the *exact* time • an *exact* copy/duplicate/replica/reproduction • Those were his *exact* words. • The *exact* cause of the fire is still under investigation. • We don't know the *exact* nature of the problem. • Predicting the path of hurricanes is not an *exact* science.

2 [more ~; most ~] : very careful and accurate • The police have an *exact* description of the killer. • Please take the most *exact* measurements possible. • *exact* [=precise] instruments • He is very *exact* in the way he solves a problem.

exact opposite : the complete opposite • I realize now that I have tried to make my work the *exact opposite* of my father's. [=to make my work as different as possible from my father's] • He used to be romantic, but now he's the *exact opposite*. [=now he is not at all romantic]

exact same or US same exact — used as a more forceful way to say “same” • We grow the *exact same* vegetables in our garden every year. • They showed up at the party in the *same exact* outfits.

to be exact — used to indicate that a statement is accurate and specific • that afternoon, June 22, *to be exact* • They had many children—seven, *to be exact*. • He came a long way—from Nome, Alaska, *to be exact*—to attend the wedding.

— **exact-ness** noun [noncount] • mathematical *exactness* [=precision]

²**exact** verb **-acts; -act-ed; -act-ing** [+ obj] formal

1 : to demand and get (something, such as payment or revenge) especially by using force or threats • They would not rest until they had *exact*ed revenge. • He was able to *exact* a promise from them.

2 — used in phrases like *exact a terrible toll* and *exact a high/heavy price* to say that something has caused a lot of suffering, loss, etc. • The war has *exact*ed a terrible toll. • These mistakes have *exact*ed a heavy price.

ex-act-ing /ɪg'zæktɪŋ/ adj [more ~; most ~] : requiring much time, attention, or effort from someone : very difficult or demanding • an *exacting* process/teacher/task • He has very *exacting* standards/requirements.

— **ex-act-ing-ly** adv • *exactingly* high standards

ex-ac-ti-tude /ɪg'zæktə'tu:d, Brit ɪg'zæktə'tju:d/ noun [noncount] formal : the quality or state of being accurate and correct • She was able to recall the event with remarkable *exactitude*. [=exactness, precision]

ex-act-ly /ɪg'zæktli/ adv [more ~; most ~]

1 — used to stress that something is accurate, complete, or correct • The mansion has *exactly* 33 rooms. • I know *exactly* where they went. • The two rooms are *exactly* the same size. • When *exactly* are they supposed to arrive? = *Exactly* when are they supposed to arrive?

2 informal — used in speech to say that what someone has said is exactly correct or that you agree with it completely • “So you think we should take an earlier flight?” “*Exactly.*” [=yes, that's exactly what I think] • “It's just not worth the trouble.” “*Exactly.*” — see also NOT EXACTLY (below)

3 : in a correct or precise way • The levers need to be *exactly* positioned. : in a way that agrees completely with what is needed • You need to do *exactly* [=just, precisely] as you're told.

4 : in every way • That was *exactly* the wrong thing to do. • He is *exactly* what a good student ought to be.

not exactly informal **1** — used in speech as a mild way of saying “no” especially to indicate that what someone has said is not completely correct or true • “He's your boss, isn't he?” “*Not exactly.*” • “Did everything go the way you planned it?” “*Not exactly.*” **2** — used as a humorous or ironic way to say “not” • He's *not exactly* the smartest guy I've ever met. [=he is not very smart]

ex-ag-ger-ate /ɪg'zædʒə'reɪt/ verb **-ates; -at-ed; -at-ing**

1 : to think of or describe something as larger or greater than it really is [+ obj] The book *exaggerates* the difficulties he faced in starting his career. • It's impossible to *exaggerate* the importance of this discovery. [no obj] He tends to *exaggerate* when talking about his accomplishments.

2 [+ obj] : to make (something) larger or greater than normal • He *exaggerated* his movements so we could see them more clearly.

— **exaggerated** *adj* [more ~; most ~] • He has a very/greatly *exaggerated* idea of his own importance. • a very *exaggerated* gesture — **ex-ag-ger-at-ed-ly** *adv* [more ~; most ~] • an *exaggeratedly* large gesture — **ex-ag-ger-a-tion** /ɪg,zædʒə'reɪʃən/ *noun*, *pl* -tions [count] The report was filled with *exaggerations* and outright lies. [noncount] She told us what happened without *exaggeration*. [=without exaggerating] — **ex-ag-ger-a-tor** /ɪg'zædʒə'reɪtə/ *noun*, *pl* -tors [count] • He's an *exaggerator*, if not an outright liar.

ex-alt /ɪg'zɑ:lt/ *verb* -alts; -alt-ed; -alt-ing [+ *obj*]

1 *formal* : to raise (someone or something) to a higher level • His behavior has *exalted* the power and prestige of his office. 2 *a formal* : to praise (someone or something) highly • The essay *exalts* the simple beauty of the country. • We *exalt* thee, O Lord. *b* : to present (something) in a way that is very favorable or too favorable • His new film *exalts* [=glorifies] military power. • He shamelessly *exalts* his own role in the peace process.

Do not confuse *exalt* with *exult*.

— **exalted** *adj* [more ~; most ~] • She rose to an *exalted* [=very high] position in the company. • an *exalted* feeling [=a very happy feeling] • He had an *exalted* [=very high] opinion of his own work. — **exalting** *adj* [more ~; most ~] • The movie is an *exalting* [=uplifting] experience.

ex-al-ta-tion /ɛg,zɑ:l'teɪʃən/ *noun* [noncount] *formal*

1 : the act of raising someone or something in importance : the act of exalting someone or something or the state of being exalted • the *exaltation* [=glorification] of athletic skill 2 : a strong sense of happiness, power, or importance • feelings of joy and *exaltation*

ex-am /ɪg'zæm/ *noun*, *pl* -ams [count]

1 *US* : EXAMINATION 1*b* • an annual physical *exam* 2 : EXAMINATION 2 • Your final *exam* will count for half of the semester's grade.

ex-am-i-na-tion /ɪg,zæmə'neɪʃən/ *noun*, *pl* -tions

1 *a* : the act of looking at something closely and carefully : the act of examining something [noncount] On closer/further *examination*, the painting appears to be a fake. • The victim's clothes were sent to the lab for *examination*. • The policy is *under examination*. [=is being examined] [count] The police made/performed a rigorous *examination* of the evidence at the crime scene. *b* [count] : a close and careful study of someone or something to find signs of illness or injury • medical/eye *examinations* • The court ordered that the defendant undergo a psychiatric *examination*. • an *examination table* [=a table in a doctor's office on which a patient lies to be examined]

2 [count] : a test to show a person's progress, knowledge, or ability • I have to study for the history *examination*. • an *examination* in/on history • I took an *examination*. = (Brit) I did/sat an *examination*. • an *entrance examination* [=a test to see if someone should be admitted to a school]

3 [noncount] *law* : the act of questioning a witness in a court of law • procedures that are not allowed during *examination* of witnesses — see also CROSS-EXAMINATION

ex-am-ine /ɪg'zæmən/ *verb* -ines; -ined; -in-ing [+ *obj*]

1 : to look at (something) closely and carefully in order to learn more about it, to find problems, etc. • An accountant has been hired to *examine* the company's books. • We need to *examine* [=consider] this question more carefully. • The police *examined* the evidence carefully.

2 : to test or look carefully at (something or someone) for signs of illness or injury • You should have your eyes *examined*. • He was *examined* by several doctors, who found nothing wrong with him. • the *examining room* [=a room in a doctor's office where the doctor examines patients]

3 *law* : to question (someone) closely • *examine* a witness — see also CROSS-EXAMINE

— **ex-am-in-er** *noun*, *pl* -ers [count] • photo *examiners* — see also MEDICAL EXAMINER

ex-am-ple /ɪg'zæmpəl/ *noun*, *pl* -am-ples

1 : a person or way of behaving that is seen as a model that should be followed [count] He was inspired by the *example* of his older brother. [=he wanted to do what his older brother did] • You should try to follow her *example*. [=try to do as she does] • Let that be an *example* to you! [=let that show you what you should or should not do] • He set a good/bad *example* for the rest of us. • It's up to you to *set an example*. [=to behave in a way that shows other people how to behave] [noncount] She chooses to *lead by example*. [=to lead by behaving in a way that shows others how to behave]

2 [count] *a* : someone or something that is mentioned to help explain what you are saying or to show that a general statement is true • She gave/offered several *examples* to show that the program is effective. *b* : something or someone chosen from a group in order to show what the whole group is like • We've chosen three *examples* of contemporary architecture for closer study. • a classic *example* of a Persian rug • a fine/prime *example* of the artist's work

3 [count] *a* : a phrase or sentence that shows how a word is used • The dictionary includes thousands of *examples*. *b* : something (such as a problem that a student has to solve) that is used to teach how a rule or process works • arithmetic *examples*

for example — used when you are mentioning a specific person or thing that helps to explain what you are saying or to show that a general statement is true • Things are getting better. Last year, *for example* [=for instance], the company achieved record sales in Europe. • It was obvious that her memory was failing. *For example*, she would often forget where she put her car keys. • A lot of my friends were there—John and Linda, *for example*.

make an example of ♦ If you *make an example of* a person who has done something wrong, you punish that person as a way of warning other people not to do the same thing. • Although it was only his first offense, the judge decided to *make an example of him* and sentence him to prison.

ex-as-per-ate /ɪg'zæspə'reɪt, Brit ɪg'zɑ:spə'reɪt/ *verb* -ates; -at-ed; -at-ing [+ *obj*] : to make (someone) very angry or annoyed • The criticism of his latest movie is sure to *exasperate* his admirers. • We were *exasperated* by the delays.

— **exasperated** *adj* [more ~; most ~] • The delays left us feeling tired and *exasperated*. • an *exasperated* smile — **exas-per-at-ed-ly** *adv* • smiling/sighing *exasperatedly* — **exasperating** *adj* [more ~; most ~] • *exasperating* delays • He wants everyone to know how *exasperating* his job can be. — **ex-as-per-at-ing-ly** *adv* • His lectures were *exasperatingly* dull.

ex-as-per-a-tion /ɪg,zæspə'reɪʃən, Brit ɪg,zɑ:spə'reɪʃən/ *noun* [noncount] : the state of being very annoyed or upset • They had all experienced the *exasperation* and frustration of holiday shopping. • He sighed in *exasperation*.

ex-ca-vate /'ɛkskə'veɪt/ *verb* -vates; -vat-ed; -vat-ing [+ *obj*]

1 : to uncover (something) by digging away and removing the earth that covers it • They *excavated* an ancient city. • It is the first site to be *excavated* in this area.

2 *a* : to dig a large hole in (something) • They began *excavating* the backyard for their new pool. *b* : to form (a hole, tunnel, etc.) by digging • *excavate* a tunnel *c* : to dig out and remove (dirt, soil, etc.) • The excess dirt was carefully *excavated*.

— **ex-ca-va-tion** /'ɛkskə'veɪʃən/ *noun*, *pl* -tions [count, noncount]

ex-ca-va-tor /'ɛkskə'veɪtə/ *noun*, *pl* -tors [count]

1 : a person who digs up things that have been buried for a long time • The *excavators* found ancient tools at the site.

2 : STEAM SHOVEL

ex-ceed /ɪk'si:d/ *verb* -ceeds; -ceed-ed; -ceed-ing [+ *obj*]

1 : to be greater or more than (something) • The cost must not *exceed* 10 dollars. • The cost *exceeded* our estimate. • The demand for new housing has already *exceeded* the supply. : to be better than (something) • Their accomplishments far *exceeded* [=surpassed] our expectations. • He's trying to match or *exceed* last year's sales.

2 : to go beyond the limit of (something) • Lawyers argue that the court *exceeded* [=overstepped] its authority in ordering a new trial.

ex-ceed-ing-ly /ɪk'si:dnli/ *adv*, somewhat *formal* : VERY, EXTREMELY • an *exceedingly* fine job • The weather was *exceedingly* cold. • The crime rate is *exceedingly* high.

ex-cel /ɪk'sel/ *verb* **ex-cels**; **ex-celled**; **ex-cel-ling**

1 [no *obj*] : to be better than others — usually + *at* or *in* • He *excelled at* whatever role he played. • She *excels in* sports.

2 [+ *obj*] : to be or do better than (others) • She *excels* everyone else in sports. • (Brit) She really *excelled herself* [=she did much better than usual] in her last race!

ex-cel-lence /'ɛksələns/ *noun* [noncount] : extremely high quality • The school is known for the *excellence* of its teachers. • an award for academic *excellence* • setting a high standard of *excellence* — see also PAR EXCELLENCE

Ex-cel-len-cy /'ɛksələnsi/ *noun*, *pl* -cies [count] — used as a title for some high government and church officials • your

Excellency • their *Excellencies* the Ambassadors of India and Indonesia

ex·cel·lent /'eksələnt/ *adj* : very good : extremely good • Her new movie has received *excellent* reviews. • He is an *excellent* role model for young men everywhere. • That dinner was *excellent*. • The car is in *excellent* condition. • She enjoys *excellent* health. • "At last we're making a profit!" "(That's) *Excellent!*"

— **ex·cel·lent·ly** *adv* • The food was delicious and *excellently* prepared.

¹ex·cept /ɪk'sept/ *also* **ex·cept·ing** /ɪk'septɪŋ/ *prep* : not including (someone or something) : other than (something or someone) • The stores will be open daily *except* Sundays. • *Excepting* [=with the exception of] one student, no one could answer the questions correctly. • Everyone was invited *except* [=but] me.

except for **1** : not including (someone or something) : other than (someone or something) • I got all As on my report card, *except for* a B in Latin. • *Except for* that one typo, there were no mistakes. • Everyone was invited *except for* [=but] me. **2** : if not for (someone or something) • They would all have died *except for* [=but for] her and her quick thinking. [=it was only because of her that they did not die]

²except *conj*

1 — used to introduce a statement that indicates the only person or thing that is not included in or referred to by a previous statement • Take no orders *except* from me. [=take orders only from me] • Employees were not allowed to leave *except* in an emergency. [=unless there was an emergency] • She didn't leave the house all weekend, *except* to go to church. [=she only left the house to go to church] • He does nothing *except* [=but] complain. [=all he does is complain]

2 — used to introduce a statement that explains the reason why something is not possible, will not happen, etc. • We'd go, *except* (that) it's too far. • I would buy a new suit, *except* I don't have enough money.

³except *verb* -cepts; -cept-ed; -cept-ing [+ *obj*] *formal* : to leave out (someone or something) : to not include (someone or something) • Children were *excepted* from the study. • Everyone was included in the study—children *excepted*. [=except for children] • I don't like lawyers—*present company excepted*, of course! [=although I don't like lawyers, I make an exception in your case]

ex·cep·tion /ɪk'sepʃən/ *noun*, *pl* -tions [count]

1 : someone or something that is different from others : someone or something that is not included • I like all his books, with one *exception*. [=I like all but one of his books] • The decision was supported by almost everyone, the single/sole *exception* being me. [=everyone supported the decision but me] • Her parties are always elegant, and last night's party was *no exception*. [=last night's party was also elegant]

2 : a case where a rule does not apply • There will be no *exceptions* to this rule. • We'll *make an exception* [=allow the rule not to be followed] this time.

take exception : to object to something : to feel or express disagreement with or opposition to something — usually + *to* • I *take exception to* the tone of her remarks. [=I am offended by the tone of her remarks]

without exception — used to say that a statement is true in all or almost all cases • *Without exception*, his books have been widely read and admired. • The critics have praised her films almost *without exception*. [=the critics have praised almost every one of her films]

with the exception of : not including (someone or something) • It's all here, *with the exception of* [=except for, except] the sweater. • *With the* (notable) *exception of* the bland soup, the food was very good. • Everyone should be there, *with the* (possible) *exception of* my brother.

ex·cep·tion·able /ɪk'sepʃənəbəl/ *adj* [more ~; most ~] *formal* : likely to cause objection or offense • an unpleasant and highly *exceptionable* [=objectionable] piece of writing — opposite UNEXCEPTIONABLE

ex·cep·tion·al /ɪk'sepʃənəl/ *adj* [more ~; most ~]

1 : not usual : unusual or uncommon • an *exceptional* [=unusually large] amount of rain • We're bending the rules for this *exceptional* situation. • *exceptional* circumstances

2 : unusually good : much better than average • an *exceptional* student in math • The seafood dishes at this restaurant are *exceptional*. • *exceptional* skill

3 : mentally or physically disabled • a separate school for *exceptional* children

— **ex·cep·tion·al·ly** *adv* • an *exceptionally* hardy plant • The

film was *exceptionally* good.

¹ex·cerpt /'ek,səpt, 'eg,zəpt/ *noun*, *pl* -cerpts [count] : a small part of a longer written work • She read an *excerpt* from the play. • I've read only *excerpts* of/from *Moby-Dick*, never the whole book.

²ex·cerpt /'ek'səpt, 'eg'zəpt/ *verb* -cerpts; -cerpt-ed; -cerpt-ing [+ *obj*] : to include (part of a longer written work) in something else — usually used as (be) *excerpted* • This article was *excerpted* from the *New York Times*. • Portions of her novel were *excerpted* in a literary magazine.

¹ex·cess /ɪk'ses, 'ek,ses/ *noun*, *pl* -cess-es

1 [*singular*] : an amount that is more than the usual or necessary amount • They were equipped with an *excess* of provisions. • The tests found an *excess* of sodium in his blood. • an *excess* of enthusiasm/zeal • There was an *excess* of 10 bushels (over what was needed to fill the bin). • Eating anything *in excess* [=in overly large amounts] can be bad for you.

2 a [*noncount*] : behavior that is considered wrong because it goes beyond what is usual, normal, or proper • He lived a life of *excess*. **b excesses** [*plural*] : actions or ways of behaving that go beyond what is usual or proper • The movie embraces all the worst *excesses* of popular American culture. • the violent *excesses* of the military regime • He apologized for his past *excesses*.

in excess of : more than (an amount) • Annual repairs cost *in excess of* [=over] \$50,000. • traveling at speeds *in excess of* 100 mph

to excess : more than is usual, normal, or proper • He often eats *to excess*. [=excessively] • college students who drink *to excess* [=who drink too much]

²excess *adj*, *always used before a noun* : more than is usual, allowed, or needed • *excess* baggage • Basketball provided an outlet for their *excess* energy. • She is trying to eliminate *excess* fat and calories from her diet.

ex·ces·sive /'ek'sesɪv/ *adj* [more ~; most ~] : going beyond what is usual, normal, or proper • an *excessive* display of wealth • She was reprimanded for her *excessive* tardiness. [=for being tardy too often] • High fever, nausea, and *excessive* sweating are some of the symptoms. • He drinks *excessive* amounts of coffee. [=he drinks too much coffee]

— **ex·ces·sive·ly** *adv* • a dog who barks *excessively* • drinking *excessively* [=to excess]

¹ex·change /ɪks'tʃeɪndʒ/ *noun*, *pl* -chang-es

1 : an occurrence in which people give things of similar value to each other : the act of giving or taking one thing in return for another thing [*noncount*] the *exchange* [=exchanging] of goods [count] an *exchange* of goods • an *exchange* of prisoners • an even/fair *exchange* of property

2 [count] **a** : an occurrence in which people direct something at each other • an *exchange* of glances • an angry *exchange* of insults • an *exchange* of blows [=a fistfight] **b** : an occurrence in which people give information to each other • a useful *exchange* of information/knowledge/ideas **c** : an occurrence in which people use weapons against each other • an *exchange* of gunfire • threats of a nuclear *exchange*

3 [count] : an occurrence in which people talk to each other for a short time : a brief conversation • a friendly *exchange*, especially : an angry conversation • a heated *exchange* • a bitter *exchange*

4 [count] **a** : a place where things or services are traded • the student book *exchange* **b** : an office or building in which telephone calls are connected • a telephone *exchange* **in exchange** ♡ If you give something to a person and get something *in exchange*, that person also gives something of similar value to you. • If I give you this, what will you give me *in exchange*? • She bought me dinner *in exchange for* helping her move. [=she bought me dinner as a way of paying me for helping her move]

— see also FOREIGN EXCHANGE, STOCK EXCHANGE

²exchange *verb* -changes; -changed; -chang-ing [+ *obj*]

1 : to give something and receive something in return • We *exchanged* addresses and promised we'd write each other often. • We *exchange* gifts [=give gifts to each other] at the holidays. • These coupons can be *exchanged* for food. • I'll *exchange* [=trade, swap] my orange for your pear.

2 : to direct (words, looks, etc.) at each other • They *exchanged* glances. [=they looked quickly at each other] • They *exchanged* greetings [=they greeted each other] when they met. • They *exchanged* insults/blows. [=they insulted/hit each other] • soldiers *exchanging* fire [=shooting at each other]

3 : to return (a product) to a store and have it replaced by

another product : to trade (something that has been purchased) for something else • I'd like to *exchange* this sweater for a smaller one. • The vase had a crack in it, so he *exchanged* it (for an unbroken one). • Can I *exchange* this vase? = Can you *exchange* this cracked vase for me?

– **ex-change-able** /ɪks'tʃeɪndʒəbəl/ *adj* • *exchangeable* merchandise

exchange rate *noun, pl ~ rates* [count] : a number that is used to calculate the difference in value between money from one country and money from another country — called also *rate of exchange*

exchange student *noun, pl ~ -dents* [count] : a student from one country who attends a school in another country • I went to Germany as an *exchange student*.

Ex-che-quer /'ɛks,tʃekə, ɪks'tʃekə/ *noun* [singular] : a department of the British government which manages the money that is used to run the government : TREASURY — now used chiefly in the title *the Chancellor of the Exchequer*

¹**ex-cise** /'ɛk,səɪz/ *noun, pl -cis-es* [count] : a tax on certain things that are made, sold, or used within a country • an *excise* imposed on a number of goods — called also *excise tax*

²**ex-cise** /ɪk'səɪz/ *verb -cis-es; -cised; -cis-ing* [+ *obj*] *formal* : to remove (something) by cutting it out • *excise* a tumor • All of the scandalous parts had been *excised* [=deleted] from the diary.

– **ex-ci-sion** /ɪk'sɪʒən/ *noun, pl -sions* [noncount] *surgical excision* of the tumor [count] The diary was published with numerous *excisions*. [=deletions]

excise tax *noun, pl ~ taxes* [count] : ¹EXCISE

ex-cit-able /ɪk'saɪtəbəl/ *adj* [more ~; most ~] : easily excited • an *excitable* dog/child

– **ex-cit-abil-i-ty** /ɪk,səɪtə'bɪləti/ *noun* [noncount]

ex-cite /ɪk'saɪt/ *verb -cites; -cit-ed; -cit-ing* [+ *obj*]

¹ : to cause feelings of enthusiasm in (someone) : to make (someone) feel energetic and eager to do something • ideas that *excite* young people • Our announcement *excited* the children. • It *excites* me [=it arouses me sexually] when you dress like that.

² : to cause (a particular emotion or reaction) to be felt or to happen • *excite* admiration/suspicion/discussion • The posters *excited* much interest in the show.

³ : to increase the activity of (something, such as nerve tissue) • a chemical that *excites* [=stimulates] the nerve cells in the brain

excited *adj* [more ~; most ~] : very enthusiastic and eager about something • They were *excited* about/over the trip. • We were *excited* (to hear) that they were getting married. • The children were *excited* before the school play.

– **ex-cit-ed-ly** *adv* • He talked *excitedly* about visiting his old friends.

ex-cite-ment /ɪk'saɪtmənt/ *noun, pl -ments*

¹ [noncount] : a feeling of eager enthusiasm and interest : the state of being excited • Our *excitement* was building/growing/mounting as the end of the game approached. • His hands shook with *excitement*. • The child cried out in *excitement*.

² **a** : exciting activity [noncount] a trip filled with *excitement* and adventure • We had some *excitement* this morning. [=something exciting happened this morning] [count] She talked about the *excitements* of her new life. **b** [singular] : a quality that causes feelings of eager enthusiasm : an exciting quality • This job loses its *excitement* after a while.

exciting /ɪk'saɪtɪŋ/ *adj* [more ~; most ~] : causing feelings of interest and enthusiasm : causing excitement • an *exciting* discovery • an *exciting* trip to Africa • an *exciting* account of her adventures • This isn't a very *exciting* book.

– **ex-cit-ing-ly** *adv* • an *excitingly* close election

ex-claim /ɪk'skleɪm/ *verb -claims; -claimed; -claim-ing*

¹ [+ *obj*] : to say (something) in an enthusiastic or forceful way • "I won!" she *exclaimed*. • "Here he comes!" someone *exclaimed*.

² [no *obj*] : to cry out or speak suddenly or with strong feeling • She *exclaimed* in delight over/at the Christmas tree. • The children *exclaimed* with wonder when they saw the elephant.

ex-cla-ma-tion /,ɛksklə'meɪʃən/ *noun, pl -tions* [count] : a sharp or sudden cry : a word, phrase, or sound that expresses a strong emotion • Her unexpected announcement caused a few *exclamations* of surprise. • an *exclamation* of pain • *exclamations* of delight

– **ex-clam-a-to-ry** /ɪk'sklæmə'tori, Brit ɪk'sklæmə'tri/ *adj* • *exclamatory* outbursts

exclamation point *noun, pl ~ points* [count] *US* : a punctuation mark ! used to show a forceful way of speaking or a strong feeling — often used figuratively • His victory in the final game *put an exclamation point on* a brilliant year. [=ended a brilliant year in a very exciting way] — called also (chiefly *Brit*) *exclamation mark*

ex-clude /ɪk'skluːd/ *verb -cludes; -clud-ed; -clud-ing* [+ *obj*]

¹ **a** : to prevent (someone) from doing something or being a part of a group • You can share files with some people on the network while *excluding* others. — often + *from* • Don't *exclude* your little sister *from* the game. • Until 1920, women were *excluded from* the right to vote in the U.S. — opposite INCLUDE **b** : to leave out (something) : to not include (something) • The prices on the menu *exclude* tax. — often + *from* • Certain words should be *excluded from* polite conversation. [=should not be used in polite conversation] — opposite INCLUDE

² : to think that (something, such as a possibility) is not worth attention • We can't altogether/entirely *exclude* [=discount] the possibility that the economy will soon improve.

– **ex-clu-sion** /ɪk'skluːʒən/ *noun, pl -sions* [noncount] the *exclusion* of women from the priesthood • He spent all his time with colleagues *to the exclusion of* [=in a way that excluded] his own family. [count] *exclusions* noted in the insurance policy

excluding *prep* : not including (someone or something) • The store is open all week, *excluding* [=except for] Sundays. see also FOREIGN EXCHANGE, STOCK EXCHANGE

¹**ex-clu-sive** /ɪk'skluːsɪv/ *adj*

¹ : not shared : available to only one person or group • We have *exclusive* use of the beach. [=we are the only ones who can use the beach] • The company has *exclusive* rights to (use) the logo. • an *exclusive* interview

² [more ~; most ~] **a** : only allowing in people from a high social class • He belongs to an *exclusive* club. • an *exclusive* hotel • an *exclusive* party — opposite INCLUSIVE **b** : available to only a few people because of high cost • *exclusive* suburban neighborhoods • She attended an *exclusive* private school. • one of the city's most *exclusive* restaurants

³ : full and complete • They gave their *exclusive* attention to the job.

exclusive of formal : not including (something) • for five days *exclusive of* today • There is a sale on all merchandise *exclusive of* jewelry.

– see also MUTUALLY EXCLUSIVE

– **ex-clu-sive-ly** *adv* • a restaurant that *exclusively* [=only] serves vegetarian cuisine = a restaurant that serves vegetarian cuisine *exclusively* • The store's customers were almost *exclusively* [=all] male. – **ex-clu-sive-ness** *noun* [noncount] • The club has been criticized for its *exclusiveness*. [=exclusivity]

²**exclusive** *noun, pl -sives* [count] : a news story that appears in only one newspaper or that is broadcast by only one television or radio station

ex-clu-siv-i-ty /,ɛk,skluː'sɪvəti/ *noun* [noncount] : the quality or state of being exclusive : the quality of being limited to people of wealth or high social class • The private school's *exclusivity* [=exclusiveness] was part of its appeal for many parents. • a symbol of wealth and *exclusivity*

ex-com-mu-ni-cate /,ɛkskə'mjuːnə'keɪt/ *verb -cates; -cat-ed; -cat-ing* [+ *obj*] : to not allow (someone) to continue being a member of the Roman Catholic church • He was *excommunicated* (from the church) for his radical practices.

– **ex-com-mu-ni-ca-tion** /,ɛkskə'mjuːnə'keɪʃən/ *noun, pl -tions* [count, noncount]

ex-co-ri-ate /ɛk'skɔːri,eɪt/ *verb -ates; -at-ed; -at-ing* [+ *obj*] *formal* : to criticize (someone or something) very harshly • He was *excoriated* as a racist. • The candidates have publicly *excoriated* each other throughout the campaign.

– **ex-co-ri-a-tion** /ɛk'skɔːri'eɪʃən/ *noun, pl -tions* [count, noncount]

ex-cre-ment /'ɛkskrəmənt/ *noun* [noncount] *formal* : solid waste passed out of the body : FECES

ex-crete /ɪk'skriːt/ *verb -cretes; -cret-ed; -cret-ing* [+ *obj*] *formal* : to pass (waste matter) from the body or from an organ in the body • *excrete* sweat • The kidneys *excrete* toxins.

ex-cre-tion /ɪk'skriːʃən/ *noun, pl -tions* *formal*

¹ [noncount] : the act or process of passing waste from the body : the process of excreting waste • The kidneys are organs of *excretion*. • *excretion* of sweat

² [count] : waste passed from the body : excreted matter • bodily *excretions*

ex·cre·to·ry /ˈɛkskrəˌtɔːri/ *adj, formal* : of or relating to excretion • *excretory* organs • *excretory* functions

ex·cru·ci·at·ing /ɪkˈskruːʃiˌeɪtɪŋ/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]

1 : very painful : causing great mental or physical pain • I have an *excruciating* headache. • an *excruciating* moment of embarrassment

2 a : very severe • *excruciating* shyness **b** : extreme or excessive • They described their vacation in *excruciating* detail.

— **ex·cru·ci·at·ing·ly** *adv* • an *excruciatingly* painful condition • The speech was *excruciatingly* long. • *excruciatingly* slow

ex·cul·pate /ˈɛkˌskʌlˌpeɪt/ *verb* -pates; -pat·ed; -pat·ing [*+ obj*] *formal* : to prove that someone is not guilty of doing something wrong • The court *exculpated* him after a thorough investigation.

— **ex·cul·pa·tion** /ˌɛkˌskʌlˌpeɪʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*] — **ex·cul·pa·to·ry** /ɛkˈskʌlpəˌtɔːri, Brit ɛkˈskʌlpətri/ *adj* • *exculpatory* evidence

ex·cur·sion /ɪkˈskɜːʒən/ *noun, pl* -sions [*count*] : a short trip especially for pleasure • a fishing *excursion* • They went on a brief *excursion* to the coast. — often used figuratively • Her brief *excursion* into politics [=her brief political career] ended badly.

¹**ex·cuse** /ɪkˈskjuːz/ *verb* -cus·es; -cused; -cus·ing [*+ obj*]

1 : to forgive someone for making a mistake, doing something wrong, etc., • Please *excuse* [=pardon] my clumsiness. • His boss *excused* the mistake but told him to be more careful next time. • Please *excuse* me for not calling sooner.

2 a : to say that (someone) is not required to do something • I was *excused* from jury duty. • The teacher *excused* the class from homework that day. **b** : to allow (someone, such as a child) to leave • I've finished my dinner. May I (please) be *excused*? [=allowed to leave the dinner table]

3 : to be an acceptable reason for (something) : JUSTIFY • Nothing can *excuse* that kind of rudeness. • Her father's illness *excused* her absence.

excuse me ✧ *Excuse me* is used as a polite way of starting to say something. It can be used when you are interrupting someone, trying to get someone's attention, or disagreeing with someone. • *Excuse me*, but may I say something? • *Excuse me*, but do you mind if I shut the window? • *Excuse me*, do you know where I can find Maple Street? • *Excuse me*, but I don't think those figures are entirely accurate. It is also used as a polite apology for a minor fault or offense, such as laughing, coughing, or burping, and, in U.S. English, for getting in someone's way or bumping into someone. • Oh, *excuse me*. [=pardon me, I beg your pardon] I didn't notice you standing there. The phrase is also used, especially in U.S. English, as a polite way of asking someone to repeat something. • *Excuse me*? [=pardon me?; I beg your pardon?] I didn't hear the last part of what you were saying. In informal use, *excuse me* is often used in an annoyed way when someone has suggested that you have done something wrong and you do not feel that you have. • "You were supposed to be home an hour ago." "Well, *excuse me*! I had to fix a flat tire."

excuse yourself : to say politely that you have to leave • *Excusing himself*, he quickly rose from the table and left the room.

— **ex·cus·able** /ɪkˈskjuːzəbəl/ *adj* • Such minor errors are *excusable*.

²**ex·cuse** /ɪkˈskjuːs/ *noun, pl* -cus·es

1 a [*count*] : a reason that you give to explain a mistake, bad behavior, etc. • What's your *excuse* for being so late? • She had no valid *excuse* for not finishing her homework. • He's always making *excuses* for himself. • a lame/flimsy *excuse* **b** *excuses* [*plural*] : reasons that you give to explain politely why you cannot do something, why you have to leave, etc. • I won't be able to come to the wedding. Please give my *excuses* to your cousin. [=please tell your cousin that I'm sorry I won't be able to come] • I *made my excuses* and left.

2 [*count*] : something (such as a condition or set of conditions) that explains improper behavior and makes it acceptable — usually used in negative statements • There is no *excuse* for child abuse. • His youth is no *excuse* for his irresponsible behavior.

3 [*count*] : a reason for doing something • His birthday gives us a good *excuse* for a party. • She'll use any *excuse* [=pretext] to wallow in self-pity.

4 [*count*] : a poor example — + *for* • He's a *poor/sad excuse* for a father. [=he's a bad father] • That pile of junk is a *sorry excuse* for a car!

ex·di·rec·to·ry /ˌɛksdəˈrɛktəri Brit ˌɛksdaɪˈrɛktri/ *adj, Brit, of a telephone number* : not shown in a telephone directory : UNLISTED • an *ex-directory* number

— **ex·di·recto·ry** *adv* • He went *ex-directory* after becoming famous.

ex·e·cra·ble /ˈɛksɪkrəbəl/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *formal* : very bad • Living conditions in the slums were *execrable*. • *execrable* taste

— **ex·e·cra·bly** /ˈɛksɪkrəbli/ *adv* • an *execrably* written novel

ex·e·crate /ˈɛksəˌkreɪt/ *verb* -crates; -crat·ed; -crat·ing [*+ obj*] *formal* : to dislike and criticize (someone or something) very strongly • She came to *execrate* the hypocritical values of her upper-class upbringing.

— **ex·e·cra·tion** /ˌɛksəˈkreɪʃən/ *noun, pl* -tions [*count, noncount*]

ex·e·cute /ˈɛksɪˌkjuːt/ *verb* -cutes; -cut·ed; -cut·ing [*+ obj*]

1 : to kill (someone) especially as punishment for a crime • He was captured, tried, and *executed* for murder.

2 a : to do (something that you have planned to do or been told to do) : CARRY OUT • They carefully *executed* the plan. • *execute* an order **b** : to do or perform (an action or movement that requires skill) • The pilot *executed* an emergency landing. • The quarterback *executed* the play perfectly.

3 *law* : to do what is required by (a legal document or command) • *execute* a decree • *execute* the provisions of the will

4 : to make or produce (a work of art) • a statue *executed* in bronze • a painting *executed* in bright colors

ex·e·cu·tion /ˌɛksɪˈkjuːʃən/ *noun, pl* -tions

1 : the act of killing someone especially as punishment for a crime [*noncount*] *execution* by lethal injection • He is in prison awaiting *execution*. [*count*] *gangland executions* [=murders done by gangsters]

2 [*noncount*] : the act of doing or performing something • We put the plan into *execution*. [=we executed the plan] • The quarterback's *execution* of the play was perfect. • Her ideas were brilliant, but her *execution* (of them) was sloppy. • skillful *execution* of the dance steps • (law) the *execution* of a will [=the act of doing the things that are required by a will]

ex·e·cu·tion·er /ˌɛksɪˈkjuːʃənər/ *noun, pl* -ers [*count*] : a person who performs executions : a person who executes people who have been sentenced to death

¹**ex·ec·u·tive** /ɪgˈzɛkjətɪv/ *noun, pl* -tives

1 [*count*] : a person who manages or directs other people in a company or organization • a sales *executive* • The television network's *executives* decided not to air the controversial show. • a phone company *executive* • The President is the chief *executive* of the U.S.

2 *the executive* : the executive branch of a government • matters of policy controlled by *the executive*

²**executive** *adj, always used before a noun*

1 a : relating to the job of managing or directing other people in a company or organization • She has good *executive* skills. • He has an *executive* position in the company. **b** : of, relating to, or used by the people who manage or direct a company or organization • the *executive* committee • the *executive* dining room • *executive* offices • an *executive* jet [=a private jet airplane used by important executives]

2 : responsible for making sure laws are carried out and for managing the affairs of a nation • In the U.S., the President is the head of the *executive branch* of government.

— compare JUDICIAL, LEGISLATIVE

executive order *noun, pl* ~ -ders [*count*] : an order that comes from the U.S. President or a government agency and must be obeyed like a law

ex·ec·u·tor /ɪgˈzɛkjətər/ *noun, pl* -tors [*count*] : someone who is named in a will as the person who will make sure that the instructions in the will are properly followed • He named his daughter as his *executor*.

ex·em·plar /ɪgˈzɛmplər/ *noun, pl* -plars [*count*] *formal*

1 : an admired person or thing that is considered an example that deserves to be copied • cited Joan of Arc as the *exemplar* of courage

2 : a typical example • He is an *exemplar* of this new breed of politician.

ex·em·pla·ry /ɪgˈzɛmpləri/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]

1 : extremely good and deserving to be admired and copied • We congratulated him on his *exemplary* [=outstanding, excellent] work. • an *exemplary* school • an *exemplary* citizen

2 *formal* : serving as an example of something — + *of* • a style *exemplary* of romanticism

ex-em-pli-fy /ɪg'zempləfaɪ/ *verb* -fies; -fied; -fy-ing [+ *obj*] : to be a very good example of (something) : to show (something) very clearly • His works *exemplify* the taste of the period. • a style *exemplifying* romanticism • The city's economic growth is *exemplified* by the many new buildings that are currently under construction.

— **ex-em-pli-fi-ca-tion** /ɪg'zempləfə'keɪʃən/ *noun, pl* -tions [count, noncount]

¹**ex-empt** /ɪg'zempt/ *adj.* : not required to do something that others are required to do — usually + *from* • He was *exempt* from military service. • She was *exempt* from physical education requirements because of her health problems. — see also TAX-EXEMPT

²**exempt** *verb* -empts; -empt-ed; -empt-ing [+ *obj*] : to say that (someone or something) does not have to do something that others are required to do : to make (someone or something) exempt — usually + *from* • He was *exempted* from military service because of his heart condition.

ex-emp-tion /ɪg'zempʃən/ *noun, pl* -tions

1 : freedom from being required to do something that others are required to do — usually + *from* [noncount] They were granted *exemption* from military service [=they were not required to join the military] because of their religious beliefs. [count] They were granted *exemptions* from military service.

2 [count] : a source or amount of income that is not taxed • You can claim a tax *exemption* for each of your dependents.

¹**ex-er-cise** /'eksə'saɪz/ *noun, pl* -cis-es

1 a [noncount] : physical activity that is done in order to become stronger and healthier • Get plenty of fresh air and *exercise*. • Swimming is my favorite kind of *exercise*. • I need to get more *exercise*. [=I need to exercise more frequently] • She plays tennis chiefly for (the) *exercise*. — often used before another noun • an *exercise* class/video/machine • *exercise* balls/mats **b** [count] : a particular movement or series of movements done to become stronger and healthier • knee *exercises* • She did stretching *exercises* before her daily run.

2 [count] : something that is done or practiced to develop a particular skill • arithmetic *exercises* • vocal *exercises* • Do the writing *exercise* at the end of each chapter.

3 [count] : an activity that has a specified quality or result • The negotiations have gotten nowhere, and I see no reason to continue with this pointless *exercise*. — usually + *in* • Waiting for the letter to come was an *exercise* in patience. • an *exercise* in public relations • The negotiations turned out to be an *exercise* in *futility* [=the negotiations were not successful or worthwhile]

4 exercises [plural] **a** chiefly US : a ceremony for students who have graduated from a school • graduation/commencement *exercises* **b** : military activities done for training • conducting naval *exercises* in the Mediterranean

5 [noncount] somewhat formal : the use of an ability or power that you have • We can avoid these problems by the *exercise* of a little common sense. [=by using a little common sense] • the *exercise* of self-control

²**exercise** *verb* -cis-es; -cised; -cis-ing

1 [no *obj*] : to do physical activities in order to make yourself stronger and healthier • It's important to *exercise* every day. • He eats right and *exercises* regularly.

2 [+ *obj*] **a** : to use (a body part) again and again in order to make it stronger • *exercise* a muscle • Bicycle riding *exercises* the leg muscles. **b** : to cause (an animal) to walk, run, etc., : to give exercise to (an animal) • The stable boys *exercise* the horses every morning.

3 [+ *obj*] : to use (an ability, power, etc.) • He didn't *exercise* good judgment. • We just need to *exercise* common sense. • She has been reluctant to *exercise* her authority. • *Exercise* caution when using these chemicals.

exercise bike *noun, pl* ~ bikes [count] : STATIONARY BIKE — called also *exercise bicycle*

ex-ert /ɪg'zəɪt/ *verb* -erts; -ert-ed; -ert-ing [+ *obj*]

1 : to use (strength, ability, etc.) • He had to *exert* all of his strength to move the stone. • She hasn't been reluctant to *exert* [=exercise] her authority.

2 : to cause (force, effort, etc.) to have an effect or to be felt • The company *exerted* [=put] pressure on local politicians. • He *exerts* a lot of influence on the other members of the committee. • the force *exerted* by the machine

exert yourself : to make an effort to do something • Don't *exert yourself* too much. • She's always willing to *exert herself* to help other people.

ex-er-tion /ɪg'zəʃən/ *noun, pl* -tions : physical or mental effort [noncount] He was panting from the *exertion* of

climbing the stairs. • an easy sport that requires little physical *exertion* [count] Their *exertions* [=efforts] were rewarded when they won the championship.

ex gra-tia /,eks'greɪʃiə/ *adj or adv, chiefly Brit* — used to describe something that is done or given freely rather than because it is required by a law • They made an *ex gratia* payment to the accident victim.

ex-hale /eks'heil/ *verb* -hales; -haled; -hal-ing : to breathe out [no *obj*] She inhaled deeply and *exhaled* slowly, trying to relax. [+ *obj*] He *exhaled* a sigh. — sometimes used figuratively • The pipe *exhaled* a cloud of smoke. — opposite INHALE

— **ex-ha-la-tion** /,ekshə'leɪʃən/ *noun, pl* -tions [count, non-count] • (an) *exhalation* of breath

¹**ex-haust** /ɪg'zɑːst/ *verb* -hausts; -haust-ed; -haust-ing [+ *obj*]

1 : to use all of someone's mental or physical energy : to tire out or wear out (someone) completely • If you keep working these long hours, you're just going to *exhaust* yourself. = Working these long hours will just *exhaust* you.

2 a : to completely use up (something, such as supplies or money) • If they keep spending this way, they'll *exhaust* their savings. **b** : to try all of (something) • They've *exhausted* (all) the possibilities [=they've tried everything they can]

3 : to consider or talk about (a subject) thoroughly or completely • He can talk about baseball for hours and still feel that he hasn't *exhausted* the subject/topic

— **exhausted** *adj* [more ~; most ~] • The children were *exhausted* after their day at the beach. • She collapsed on her bed, totally *exhausted*. — **exhausting** *adj* [more ~; most ~] • It was an *exhausting* day at the beach. • We have an *exhausting* amount of work to do. — **ex-haust-ing-ly** *adv* • They worked *exhaustingly* long hours.

²**exhaust** *noun, pl* -hausts

1 [noncount] : the mixture of gases produced by an engine • diesel *exhaust* from passing trucks • *exhaust* fumes • smog from automobile *exhaust*

2 [count] : a pipe or system of pipes through which exhaust is released • There's a problem with the car's *exhaust*. — called also *exhaust pipe*, (chiefly US) *tailpipe*

ex-haus-tion /ɪg'zɑːʃən/ *noun* [noncount]

1 : the state of being extremely tired : the state of being exhausted • physical/nervous *exhaustion* • She collapsed in *exhaustion*. • He worked to the point of complete/total *exhaustion*. — see also HEAT EXHAUSTION

2 : the act of using all of something : the act of exhausting something • the *exhaustion* of our natural resources

ex-haus-tive /ɪg'zɑːstɪv/ *adj* [more ~; most ~] : including all possibilities : very thorough • *exhaustive* research • an *exhaustive* study/search • The list was long but not *exhaustive*.

— **ex-haus-tive-ly** *adv* • an *exhaustively* researched report — **ex-haus-tive-ness** *noun* [noncount]

¹**ex-hib-it** /ɪg'zɪbət/ *verb* -its; -it-ed; -it-ing [+ *obj*]

1 : to make (a painting, sculpture, etc.) available for people to see • They will be *exhibiting* a collection of paintings. • He proudly *exhibited* his trophy.

2 somewhat formal : to show or reveal (something) • He first *exhibited* an interest in music when he was very young. • The patient *exhibited* signs of the disease. • She *exhibited* no fear.

— **ex-hib-i-tor** /ɪg'zɪbətə/ *noun, pl* -tors [count] • The craft show attracts *exhibitors* from around the country.

²**exhibit** *noun, pl* -its [count]

1 a : an object or a collection of objects that have been put out in a public space for people to look at : something shown in an exhibition • The show includes dozens of interesting *exhibits*. **b** chiefly US : EXHIBITION 2a • Have you seen the new photography *exhibit*? • a school art *exhibit*

2 : an object that is used as evidence in a court of law • introduced the weapons into evidence as *exhibits* A and B ♦ The phrase *exhibit A* is sometimes used to refer to someone or something that is being mentioned as evidence or proof of something, as if in a court of law. • He says that the new regulations have hurt small businesses, and he offers his own company as *exhibit A*.

on exhibit : being publicly shown in an exhibition • The photographs are *on exhibit* in the museum's west wing. • The painting went *on exhibit* last week. • The painting was put *on exhibit*.

ex-hi-bi-tion /,eksə'bɪʃən/ *noun, pl* -tions

1 [singular] : an act of showing some quality or trait — + *of* • a notable *exhibition* of courage • give/provide an *exhibition* of bad manners

2 a [count] : an event at which objects (such as works of art) are put out in a public space for people to look at : a public show of something • There were several famous paintings at the *exhibition*. • an *exhibition* of early American crafts **b** [noncount] : the act of showing something in public • helping to promote artists by *exhibition* of their paintings

3 [count] : a public display of athletic skill • a fencing *exhibition* • an *exhibition* baseball game [=an unofficial game that does not count in the standings]

make an exhibition of yourself : to behave in a foolish or embarrassing way in public • He got drunk at the wedding and *made an exhibition of himself* in front of everyone.

on exhibition : being publicly shown in an exhibition • The coin collection will be (placed/put) *on exhibition* [=on exhibit] next week.

ex·hi·bi·tion·ism /ˌɛksəˈbɪʃənɪzəm/ *noun* [noncount] *disapproving* : behavior that is meant to attract attention to yourself • shameless *exhibitionism*

– **ex·hi·bi·tion·ist** /ˌɛksəˈbɪʃənɪst/ *noun*, *pl* **-ists** [count]

– **exhibitionist** or **ex·hi·bi·tion·ist·ic** /ˌɛksəˈbɪʃənˈnɪstɪk/ *adj* [more ~; most ~] • *exhibitionist* behavior

ex·hil·a·rate /ɪɡˈzɪləreɪt/ *verb* **-rates; -rat-ed; -rat-ing** [+ *obj*] : to cause (someone) to feel very happy and excited — usually used as (be) *exhilarated* • We were *exhilarated* by the news of his success.

– **exhilarated** *adj* [more ~; most ~] • I feel *exhilarated*!

– **exhilarating** *adj* [more ~; most ~] • an *exhilarating* ski trip • *exhilarating* news

ex·hil·a·ra·tion /ɪɡˈzɪləˈreɪʃən/ *noun* [noncount] : a feeling of great happiness and excitement • I felt a kind of *exhilaration* when I reached the top of the mountain.

ex·hort /ɪɡˈzɔrt/ *verb* **-horts; -hort-ed; -hort-ing** [+ *obj*] *formal* : to try to influence (someone) by words or advice : to strongly urge (someone) to do something • He *exhorted* his people to take back their land. • She *exhorted* her listeners to support the proposition.

– **ex·hor·ta·tion** /ˌɛkˌsɔəˈteɪʃən/ *noun*, *pl* **-tions** [count, noncount]

ex·hume /ɪɡˈzu:m, Brit ɪɡˈzju:m/ *verb* **-humes; -humed; -hum-ing** [+ *obj*] *formal* : to remove (a body) from the place where it is buried • The victim's body will be *exhumed* [=disinterred] so that a new autopsy can be performed.

– **ex·hu·ma·tion** /ˌɛkshjuˈmeɪʃən/ *noun*, *pl* **-tions** [count, noncount]

ex·i·gen·cy /ˈɛksədʒənsi/ *noun*, *pl* **-cies** *formal* : something that is necessary in a particular situation [count] — usually plural • Administrative *exigencies* [=needs] have led to some changes in the structure of the committee. • the *exigencies* of war [noncount] They are motivated by political *exigency* [=necessity] rather than by principal.

ex·i·gent /ˈɛksədʒənt/ *adj* [more ~; most ~] *formal*

1 : requiring immediate attention : needing to be dealt with immediately • *exigent* circumstances

2 : expecting much time, attention, effort, etc., from other people : DEMANDING • *exigent* bosses/clients

¹ex·ile /ˈɛgzajəl, ˈɛkˌsajəl/ *noun*, *pl* **-iles**

1 a [noncount] : a situation in which you are forced to leave your country or home and go to live in a foreign country • They hoped that his *exile* would be temporary. — often used after *in* or *into* • forced *into exile* • He went *into exile* to avoid capture and execution by the government. • He now lives *in exile* in the United States. — sometimes used figuratively • She went *into political exile* [=she stopped being involved in politics] after the last election. **b** [count] : a period of time during which someone has lived in exile • a five-year *exile*

2 [count] : a person who has been forced to live in a foreign country : a person who is in exile • Many chose to live as *exiles* rather than face persecution. — see also TAX EXILE

²exile *verb* **-iles; -iled; -il-ing** [+ *obj*] : to force (someone) to go to live in a distant place or foreign country : to force (someone) into exile — usually used as (be) *exiled* • The President was *exiled* by military rulers soon after the coup. • an *exiled* writer • dissidents *exiled* to Siberia

ex·ist /ɪɡˈzɪst/ *verb* **-ists; -ist-ed; -ist-ing** [no *obj*]

1 : to have actual being : to be real • She believes that ghosts really do *exist*. • It's the largest galaxy known to *exist*. • Does life *exist* on Mars? • The Internet didn't *exist* then. • Those ideas only *exist* in your mind. [=they are only in your mind] • We shouldn't ignore the problems that *exist* in our own community.

2 : to continue to be or to live • as long as doubt *exists* [=persists] • Racism still *exists* in our society. • The organization

may soon cease to *exist* if more funding isn't provided. • We cannot *exist* [=live] without oxygen. • They *exist* [=survive, *subsist*] on a diet of fruit, nuts, and leaves.

– **existing** *adj* • ignore *existing* problems • making changes to the *existing* structure [=the structure that is there now]

ex·ist·ence /ɪɡˈzɪstəns/ *noun*, *pl* **-enc-es**

1 [noncount] : the state of existing: such as **a** : the fact of having actual being : the state of being real • the *existence* of ghosts • She began to doubt the *existence* of God. • the largest animal/building in *existence* [=the largest animal/building that exists] • We shouldn't deny the *existence* of these problems. [=we shouldn't deny that these problems are present or real] • long before the country had *come into existence* [=begun to exist; come to have actual being] • The company has since gone *out of existence*. [=it no longer exists] **b** : the state of continuing to be or to live • The organization is engaged in a struggle for (its) *existence*. • I owe my very *existence* [=life] to their courage. [=I am alive because of their courage]

2 [count] : a particular way of living — usually singular • They enjoyed a comfortable *existence*. • They pursued their meager *existence* in a poor rural area.

ex·ist·ent /ɪɡˈzɪstənt/ *adj*, *formal* : having existence : present or real • The resort is no longer *existent*. [=it doesn't exist anymore] : existing now • I think we should improve *existent* parks rather than create new ones. — opposite NON-EXISTENT

¹exit /ˈɛgzət, ˈɛksət/ *noun*, *pl* **exits** [count]

1 : something (such as a door) that is used as a way to go out of a place • Use the emergency *exit* in case of fire. • There are 12 *exits* in the building. • We can't get out this way: the sign says "No *Exit*." • the *exit* door — sometimes used figuratively • The deal provides an *exit* for the company. [=a way for the company to stop being involved in something] — compare **ENTRANCE 2** ♦ In U.S. English a door or passage that leads outside or to an exit door is marked *Exit*, while in British English it is often marked *Way Out*.

2 a : the act of going out or away from something • Her *exit* [=departure] was not noticed at the time. • He *made* a quick *exit*. [=he left quickly] • We *made* an early *exit* from the show. [=we left the show early] **b** : the act of leaving a situation, competition, etc. • Most fans were surprised by the team's early *exit* from the tournament. [=surprised that the team lost and was out of the tournament at an early stage] • The company needs to have an *exit strategy*. [=a plan for ending its involvement when it wants or needs to end it]

3 : a special road by which vehicles leave a highway • Take the first *exit*. • *exit* ramps

²exit *verb* **exits; exit-ed; exit-ing**

1 : to go out of a place or situation : to make an exit [no *obj*] We can *exit* (out) through the back door. • [+ *obj*] *exit* a building • *exit* the parking lot • The team *exited* the tournament early. — opposite ENTER

2 [+ *obj*] : to cause (a computer program) to stop when you have finished using it • Save your work and then *exit* the program.

exit poll *noun*, *pl* ~ **polls** [count] : a method of predicting the result of an election by asking people who they voted for as they leave the place where they voted

ex·o·dus /ˈɛksədəs/ *noun*, *pl* **-dus-es** [count] : a situation in which many people leave a place at the same time — usually singular • The war caused a mass *exodus* of refugees.

ex of·fi·cio /ˌɛksəˈfɪʃi,ou/ *adv*, *formal* : because of your job, office, or position • The Vice President serves *ex officio* as president of the Senate. [=being vice president means that you are also the president of the Senate]

– **ex officio** *adj* • *ex officio* members of the council

ex·on·er·ate /ɪɡˈzɔ:nəreɪt/ *verb* **-ates; -at-ed; -at-ing** [+ *obj*] *formal* : to prove that someone is not guilty of a crime or responsible for a problem, bad situation, etc. • Her attorney claims that this new evidence will *exonerate* [=clear] the defendant completely. — sometimes + *of* or *from* • evidence that will *exonerate* her *off/from* the charges

– **ex·on·er·a·tion** /ɪɡˈzɔ:nəˈreɪʃən/ *noun* [noncount] • A review of the evidence led to her complete *exoneration*.

ex·or·bi·tant /ɪɡˈzɔ:bətənt/ *adj* [more ~; most ~] : going far beyond what is fair, reasonable, or expected : too high, expensive, etc. • *exorbitant* fees/costs/prices/expenses • They were charged *exorbitant* rates for phone calls.

– **ex·or·bi·tant·ly** *adv* • *exorbitantly* expensive meals • *exorbitantly* high prices

ex·or·cise also **ex·or·cize** /ˈɛksəˌsaɪz/ *verb* **-cis-es** also

-ciz-es; -cised *also* **-cized; -cis-ing** *also* **-ciz-ing** [+ *obj*]
: to force (an evil spirit) to leave • The movie is about a priest who tries to *exorcise* demons from a young girl. — often used figuratively • She tried hard to *exorcise* her feelings of guilt. • His charitable works seem to be an effort to *exorcise* the ghosts/demons of his past. [=to make up for the bad things he did in the past]

— **ex-or-cism** /'eksə'sɪzəm/ *noun*, *pl* **-cisms** [*noncount*]
the *exorcism* of demons [*count*] a priest performing *exorcisms* — **ex-or-cist** /'eksə'sɪst/ *noun*, *pl* **-cists** [*count*]

¹**ex-ot-ic** /ɪg'zɑ:tɪk/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]

1 : very different, strange, or unusual • *exotic* colors/flavors • an *exotic* locale • She's known for her *exotic* tastes.

2 *of a plant or animal* : not living or growing naturally in a particular area : from another part of the world • *exotic* plants • *exotic* fish/birds

— **ex-ot-i-cal-ly** /ɪg'zɑ:tɪkli/ *adv* • *exotically* flavored teas

— **ex-ot-i-cism** /ɪg'zɑ:tə'sɪzəm/ *noun* [*noncount*] — **ex-ot-ic-ness** /ɪg'zɑ:tɪknəs/ *noun* [*noncount*]

²**exotic** *noun*, *pl* **-ics** [*count*] : a plant or animal that does not live or grow naturally in a particular area • Some native species are being crowded out by *exotics*.

ex-pand /ɪk'spænd/ *verb* **-pands; -pand-ed; -pand-ing**

1 **a** [*no obj*] : to increase in size, range, or amount : to become bigger • The liquid *expands* and contracts with changes in temperature. • the *expanding* universe • His business has *expanded* to serve the entire state. • The coffee shop may *expand* into a full restaurant. **b** [+ *obj*] : to cause (something) to increase in size, range, or amount : to make (something) bigger • He has *expanded* his business to serve the entire state. • There are plans to *expand* the airport. • The police have decided to *expand* their investigation. • She plans to *expand* the lecture series into a book. • This trip will give you an opportunity to *expand* [=broaden] your horizons. [=to learn more about the world] • *expand* your knowledge

2 [+ *obj*] : to write (something) in full form • *Expand* the abbreviation "deg." to "degree."

expand on/upon [*phrasal verb*] **expand on/upon** (something) : to speak or write about (something) in a more complete or detailed way • She declined to *expand on* her earlier statement. • Please *expand* [=elaborate] *on* that idea. • Researchers will *expand upon* their data in a new study.

— **ex-pand-able** /ɪk'spændəbəl/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] • *expandable* computer memory [=computer memory that can be easily increased]

ex-panse /ɪk'spæns/ *noun*, *pl* **-pans-es** [*count*] : a large and usually flat open space or area • The explorer gazed across the vast Arctic *expanse*. — usually + *of* • the vast/broad *expanse of* the ocean • an *expanse of* desert • great *expanses of* pavement

ex-pan-sion /ɪk'spænfən/ *noun*, *pl* **-sions**

1 [*noncount*] : the act of becoming bigger or of making something bigger : the act of expanding • territorial *expansion* • The league is undergoing *expansion*. • economic *expansion* • the *expansion of* a lecture series into a book

2 [*count*] : a more complete and detailed written work or set of comments based on something shorter • This book is an *expansion of* a lecture series. — often + *on* or *upon* • Her remarks today were an *expansion on* her earlier comments regarding the budget.

ex-pan-sion-ism /ɪk'spænfə'nɪzəm/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the belief that a country should grow larger : a policy of increasing a country's size by expanding its territory

— **ex-pan-sion-ist** /ɪk'spænfənɪst/ *adj* • *expansionist* policies — **expansionist** *noun*, *pl* **-ists** [*count*]

ex-pan-sive /ɪk'spænsɪv/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]

1 *formal* : talking a lot • He was unusually *expansive* at the press conference. • She was in an *expansive* mood.

2 **a** : covering or including many things : very broad or wide • The law was *expansive* in its scope. • a more *expansive* treatment of the topic **b** : covering a large space or area • the hotel's *expansive* dining room • The house has *expansive* views of the valley. • an *expansive* gesture [=a broad gesture]

3 : growing quickly or steadily : marked by expansion • an *expansive* economy

— **ex-pan-sive-ly** *adv* — **ex-pan-sive-ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

ex-pat /'eks,pæt/ *noun*, *pl* **-pats** [*count*] *informal* : EXPATRIATE

ex-pa-ti-ate /'ek'speɪtʃi,et/ *verb* **-ates; -at-ed; -at-ing** [*no obj*] *formal* : to speak or write about something in a way that includes a lot of details or uses many words — usually + *on*

or *upon* • an essay *expatiating on/upon* the legislative process

ex-pa-tri-ate /'ek'spetrɪjət, Brit ek'spætrɪət/ *noun*, *pl* **-ates** [*count*] : a person who lives in a foreign country • American *expatriates* living in Paris

— **expatriate** *adj*, *always used before a noun* • *expatriate* writers

ex-pect /ɪk'spekt/ *verb* **-pects; -pect-ed; -pect-ing**

1 [+ *obj*] : to think that something will probably or certainly happen • We *expect* (that) the economy will improve. = We *expect* the economy to improve. • As *expected*, the election was very close. • Costs have been higher than *expected*. = Costs have been higher than they were *expected* to be. • It's *expected* that the new products will be available next month. • Prices are *expected* to rise. • He's opposed to the new law, as you might *expect*. • I *expect* (that) she won't like the news. • We were half/fully *expecting* [=we thought there was a reasonable/good chance] that the game would be canceled. • Good things sometimes happen when you least *expect* them. — often followed by *to* + *verb* • She *expects to go* to college. • I *expect to do well* on the exam. • Who do you *expect to win*? = Who do you *expect will win*?

2 [+ *obj*] : to think that (someone or something) will arrive or that (something) will happen • We *expect* them (to arrive) any minute now. • We *expect* rain tomorrow. = We *expect* it to rain tomorrow. • I'll *expect* your letter (to arrive) next week. • I'm *expecting* a phone call. • The *expected* delivery date is next month.

3 [+ *obj*] : to consider (something) to be reasonable, required, or necessary • He's a teacher who *expects* hard work from his students. • Her latest film lacks the quality that we've come to *expect* (from her). • We *expected* more from/of you. • This is not the kind of behavior I *expected* of you. • He *expects* a great deal from/of himself and from/of other people. • I don't think it's too much to *expect* that you should get to work on time. • The supplier *expects* to be paid on time. • We *expect* you to pay your debts. • "England *expects* every man to do his duty." — Lord Nelson (1805)

4 *always used in progressive tenses* [*no obj*] : to be pregnant • She's *expecting*. : to be due to give birth • She's *expecting* next month. [=she will probably give birth next month; her baby will probably be born next month]

5 [+ *obj*] *informal* : to suppose or think — usually used after *I* • I *expect* [=guess] that these problems occur in other places too. • She feels the same way, I *expect*. • "Does she feel the same way?" "I *expect* so/not."

— **ex-pect-able** /ɪk'spektəbəl/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] • an *expectable* [=predictable] reaction

ex-pect-an-cy /ɪk'spektənsɪ/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a feeling that something is going to happen : the feeling that you have when you are expecting something • We were all in a state of (nervous) *expectancy*, awaiting the results of the vote. • an air of *expectancy* — see also LIFE EXPECTANCY

ex-pect-ant /ɪk'spektənt/ *adj*

1 [*more* ~; *most* ~] : feeling or thinking that something will happen : expecting something • An *expectant* crowd waited for her arrival.

2 *always used before a noun* : expecting the birth of a child : soon to become a parent • *expectant* parents • an *expectant* mother

— **ex-pect-ant-ly** *adv* • The crowd waited *expectantly* for her arrival.

ex-pec-ta-tion /'ek,spek'teɪfən/ *noun*, *pl* **-tions**

1 : a belief that something will happen or is likely to happen [*count*] Their *expectation* was [=they expected] that the plan would succeed. • The company has *expectations of* making a profit next year. [*noncount*] I saved the files in the *expectation* that they would be useful in the future. • There is widespread *expectation* that the strike will be settled soon. • The crowd waited *in expectation of* her arrival. ✧ To have *every expectation of* something is to feel very sure that it will happen. • They have *every expectation of* success. [=they believe they will succeed]

2 [*count*] : a feeling or belief about how successful, good, etc., someone or something will be — usually plural • *Expectations* for the team were high. [=people expected the team to do very well] • We've had to lower our *expectations* for the festival. [=to expect that the festival will not be as successful, big, etc., as we originally thought it would be] • We need to have more realistic *expectations* about when the house will be finished. [=to accept that the house will not be finished as soon as we thought it would be] • We're living in a time of diminished/rising *expectations*. • He found it hard *to live up to*

their expectations [=to do as well as they expected him to do] • The company failed to *match/meet expectations* [=to be as successful as people thought it would be] • The restaurant has succeeded *beyond(all) expectations* = The restaurant has *exceeded expectations* [=it is more successful than people thought it would be] • Company earnings were *not up to expectations* = Earnings *fell short of expectations* [=the company did not earn as much money as people thought it would earn] • *Contrary to expectations* all of the birds survived. = *Against(all) expectations* the birds survived. [=the birds survived although people did not think they would]

¹ex-pe-di-ent /ɪk'spi:dijənt/ *adj* [more ~; most ~] *often disapproving* : providing an easy and quick way to solve a problem or do something • They found it *expedient* to negotiate with the terrorists. • a politically *expedient* solution • Do the right thing, not the *expedient* thing.

— **ex-pe-di-ent-ly** *adv* • We want to resolve this issue as *expediently* [=quickly] as possible. — **ex-pe-di-ence** /ɪk'spi:dijəns/ or **ex-pe-di-en-cy** /ɪk'spi:dijənsi/ *noun* [noncount] • political *expedience/expediency* • for reasons of *expediency*

²expedient *noun, pl -ents* [count] : an easy and quick way to solve a problem or do something : an expedient solution • The government chose short-term/temporary *expedients* instead of a real economic policy. • We can solve this problem by the simple *expedient* of taking out another loan.

ex-pe-dite /'ekspə,dart/ *verb -dites; -dit-ed; -dit-ing* [+ *obj*] *formal* : to cause (something) to happen faster • They've asked the judge to *expedite* the lawsuits. • We'll do what we can to *expedite* the processing of your insurance claim. — compare EXPEDITIOUS

ex-pe-di-tion /'ekspə'dɪʃən/ *noun, pl -tions* [count]

1 : a journey especially by a group of people for a specific purpose (such as to explore a distant place or to do research) • organize/mount/launch a mountain-climbing *expedition* • a scientific *expedition* to Antarctica — also used in a playful way to refer to a short trip for a specific purpose • a shopping *expedition* • fishing *expeditions* ✧ The phrase *fishing expedition* is sometimes used in a disapproving way, especially in U.S. English, to describe a situation in which a person or group looks for evidence that someone has done something wrong without having a good reason to believe the evidence exists. • Critics charge that the government investigation is a politically motivated *fishing expedition*.

2 : a group of people who travel together to a distant place : a group of people who go on an expedition • The (members of the) *expedition* discovered an ancient burial site.

ex-pe-di-tion-ary /'ekspə'dɪʃənəri, Brit 'ekspə'dɪʃənri/ *adj*

1 : relating to an expedition • *expeditionary* missions

2 : sent to fight in a foreign country • an *expeditionary force*

ex-pe-di-tious /'ekspə'dɪʃəs/ *adj* [more ~; most ~] *formal* : acting or done in a quick and efficient way • Both sides hoped for an *expeditious* [=prompt] resolution of the dispute.

— **ex-pe-di-tious-ly** *adv* • The insurer handled the claim *expeditiously*. [=promptly]

ex-pel /ɪk'spel/ *verb -pels; -pelled; -pel-ling* [+ *obj*]

1 : to officially force (someone) to leave a place or organization • The club may *expel* members who do not follow the rules. • She was *expelled* from school for bad behavior.

2 : to push or force (something) out • *expel* air from the lungs

ex-pend /ɪk'spend/ *verb -pends; -pend-ed; -pend-ing* [+ *obj*] *formal*

1 : to use or spend (something) • You can only lose weight by *expending* [=using, using up] more calories than you take in. • *expend* [=spend] funds

2 : to use (time, energy, effort, etc.) for a particular purpose • Are we willing to *expend* the time and resources required to solve the problem? — often + *on* • We need to *expend* more time and resources *on* solving the problem. — sometimes followed by *in* + *-ing verb* • We need to *expend* more time and resources *in finding* a solution to the problem.

ex-pend-able /ɪk'spendəbəl/ *adj* : easily replaced : not worth saving • employees whose jobs are considered *expendable* : not meant to be saved : meant to be used and thrown away • an *expendable* rocket • *expendable* [=disposable] supplies

ex-pen-di-ture /ɪk'spendɪtʃə/ *noun, pl -tures* *formal*

1 **a** : an amount of money that is spent on something [count] Your income should exceed your *expenditures*. [=you should earn more money than you spend] • an increase in

military *expenditures* [noncount] an increase in military *expenditure* **b** : an amount of time, energy, effort, etc., that is used to do something [count] vast *expenditures* of time and effort [noncount] The energy *expenditure* was significant.

2 **a** [noncount] : the act of spending money • the *expenditure* of funds for the new school **b** : the act of using something (such as time or effort) for a particular purpose [noncount] greater *expenditure* of effort [count] The project will require an *expenditure* of effort on everyone's part.

ex-pense /ɪk'spens/ *noun, pl -pens-es*

1 [noncount] : the amount of money that is needed to pay for or buy something • I'd like to save the time and *expense* [=cost] of redoing the whole thing. • I don't think a first-class ticket is worth the added/extra *expense*. — often used after *at* • These items were imported *at* great/considerable/enormous *expense*. [=it cost a lot to import them] • We were able to fix the problem *at* very little *expense*. [=for very little money] • The repairs were made *at* no *expense* to us. [=without costing us anything] — see also AT SOMEONE'S EXPENSE (below) ✧ If you *spare no expense*, you spend as much money as you need to in order to make something as good as possible. • When they go on vacation, they *spare no expense*. • They *spared no expense* in building the house.

2 [count] : an amount of money that must be spent especially regularly to pay for something • The annual fee is simply an *expense* of doing business. — usually plural • Their *expenses* [=expenditures] were getting far ahead of their income. • We need to find a way to control *expenses*. • cutting back on *expenses* • legal/medical/household *expenses* [=costs] • I'm concerned about the project's hidden *expenses*. • You'll have to pay your own travel/traveling *expenses*. • an *all-expenses paid* trip [=a journey for which all costs are already paid]

3 [count] : something on which money is spent • A new car is a major *expense*. • My new computer was a business *expense*. [=something I had to buy in order to do business]

at someone's expense **1** : paid for by someone • a fancy dinner *at my parents' expense* • a stadium built *at the taxpayers' expense* = a stadium built *at taxpayer expense* [=with money from taxes] • The tour is free, but all meals are *at your own expense*. [=you must pay for your meals]

2 ✧ If someone makes a joke about you or laughs at you, the joke or laughter is said to be *at your expense*. • Everyone had a good laugh *at my expense*.

at the expense of : in a way that harms (something or someone) • Malls flourished *at the expense of* small stores downtown. • She acquired power *at the expense of* friendships. • He argues that the tax cut will benefit the rich *at the expense of* the poor.

go to (the) expense : to spend money on something • Why *go to the expense* of installing something you'll never use? • She *went to great expense* to have this party.

expense account *noun, pl ~ accounts* [count] : an arrangement that allows an employee (such as someone who is traveling for business) to pay for things using the company's money instead of the employee's money • He charged dinner to his *expense account*. • She put the tickets on her *expense account*.

ex-pen-sive /ɪk'spensɪv/ *adj* [more ~; most ~] : costing a lot of money • an *expensive* hobby • an *expensive* car • *expensive* clothes • The lights were *expensive* to install. • They live in an *expensive* neighborhood. [=a neighborhood in which houses, apartments, etc., cost a lot to buy or rent] • Her decision to leave the company proved to be an *expensive* mistake. [=a mistake that caused her to lose a lot of money] • an *expensive* shop [=a shop that sells expensive things] • He has *expensive* tastes. [=he likes expensive things]

— **ex-pen-sive-ly** *adv* • He dresses *expensively*.

¹ex-pe-ri-ence /ɪk'spiəriəns/ *noun, pl -enc-es*

1 [noncount] : the process of doing and seeing things and of having things happen to you • The best way to learn is by *experience*. • the *experience* of pain/love

2 [noncount] **a** : skill or knowledge that you get by doing something • We need someone with *experience*. • She gained/acquired a lot of *experience* at that job. • I know that from personal/firsthand *experience*. • Do you have *experience* doing this kind of work? [=have you done this kind of work?] • I have little *experience* (dealing) with these kinds of issues. **b** : the length of time that you have spent doing something (such as a particular job) • She has five years' *experience* as a computer programmer.

3 [count] : something that you have done or that has happened to you • He wrote about his *experiences* as a pilot. •

That *experience* is one I'd rather forget! • She had a frightening *experience*.

2 experience *verb* -enc-es; -enced; -enc-ing [+ *obj*] : to do or see (something) or have (something) happen to you • Have you ever *experienced* [=suffered] the loss of a pet? • That was one of the worst days I've ever *experienced*. : to feel or be affected by (something) • The patient has been *experiencing* pain in her left shoulder.

experienced /ɪk'spɪrɪənst/ *adj* [more ~; most ~] : having skill or knowledge from doing something : having experience • an *experienced* driver • The job calls for someone who is more *experienced*. • *experienced* at/in teaching

1 ex-per-i-ment /ɪk'spɛrəmənt/ *noun, pl* -ments

1 : a scientific test in which you perform a series of actions and carefully observe their effects in order to learn about something [count] Students will carry out simple laboratory *experiments*. • perform/conduct/do/run an *experiment* • a failed *experiment* • They did some *experiments* with magnets. • a series of *experiments* on rats [=done to rats] [noncount] These theories have not yet been confirmed by *experiment*.

2 [count] : something that is done as a test : something that you do to see how well or how badly it works • I'd like to paint the room a different color, just as an *experiment*. [=to see if it looks good or not] • an *experiment* in living more frugally • the city's *experiment* with a longer school year

2 ex-per-i-ment /ɪk'spɛrə,ment/ *verb* -ments; -ment-ed; -ment-ing [no *obj*] : to make or do an experiment: such as a : to do a scientific test in which you perform a series of actions and carefully observe their effects • They *experimented* with magnets. • researchers *experimenting* on rats b : to try a new activity or a new way of doing or thinking about something • an artist who's always *experimenting* [=trying new things] — usually + *with* • He's been *experimenting* with various materials. • She *experimented* with different kinds of weaving. • The school is *experimenting* with a longer school year. • teenagers *experimenting* with drugs [=using illegal drugs to find out if they like them]

— **ex-per-i-men-ta-tion** /ɪk,sperəmənt'eɪʃən/ *noun* [noncount] • scientific *experimentation* with/on rats • artistic *experimentation* — **ex-per-i-ment-er** /ɪk'spɛrə,mentə/ *noun, pl* -ers [count]

ex-per-i-men-tal /ɪk,sperə'mentl/ *adj* [more ~; most ~]

1 : relating to a scientific experiment or to scientific experiments in general • *experimental* data/evidence • *experimental* approaches/conditions • *experimental* animals [=animals that are used in experiments]

2 : made or done in order to see how well something works • an *experimental* treatment • *experimental* drugs/techniques • Plans for new city bus routes are still in the *experimental* stage. [=they are not final yet; they are being tested] • The fuel is being used on an *experimental* basis.

3 : using a new way of doing or thinking about something • *experimental* art/films

— **ex-per-i-men-tal-ly** *adv* • The theory was only recently *experimentally* confirmed. [=confirmed in an experiment] • The technique/fuel is being used *experimentally*.

1 ex-pert /'ɛk,spɛt/ *noun, pl* -perts [count] : a person who has special skill or knowledge relating to a particular subject • a computer *expert* • She was an acknowledged *expert* on/in child development. • an *expert* at planning dinner parties

2 expert *adj* [more ~; most ~] : having or showing special skill or knowledge because of what you have been taught or what you have experienced • We received some *expert* advice. • an *expert* poker player • an *expert* opinion • The company has become *expert* at/in adapting its products for new clients. • *expert* testimony • an *expert* witness [=a witness in a court of law who is an expert on a particular subject]

— **ex-pert-ly** *adv* • The furniture was *expertly* constructed.

— **ex-pert-ness** *noun* [noncount]

ex-per-tise /'ɛkspɛ'ti:z/ *noun* [noncount] : special skill or knowledge : the skill or knowledge an expert has • His *expertise* on defense will help the team. • her *expertise* in legal matters • The company has no environmental *expertise*. [=the company does not have experience with environmental problems, matters, etc.] • This question falls outside my *area of expertise* [=the subject area I know a lot about]

ex-pi-ate /'ɛkspi,ert/ *verb* -ates; -at-ed; -at-ing [+ *obj*] *formal* : to do something as a way to show that you are sorry about doing something bad • trying to find a way to *expiate* [=atone for] his guilt/sin

— **ex-pi-a-tion** /'ɛkspi'eɪʃən/ *noun* [noncount] • *expiation* of his guilt/sin

ex-pi-ra-tion /'ɛkspə'reɪʃən/ *noun* [noncount]

1 : the fact of coming to an end or no longer being valid after a period of time : the fact of expiring • the patent's *expiration* • one month after the *expiration* of the contract

2 *medical* : the act of breathing out • inhalation and *expiration* [=exhalation]

expiration date *noun, pl* ~ dates [count]

1 : the date when something (such as a credit card or driver's license) can no longer legally or officially be used • What is the *expiration date* on your credit card? [=when does your credit card expire?] — called also (Brit) *expiry date*

2 : the date when something (such as milk or medicine) can no longer be sold because it may no longer be good or effective • Check the *expiration date* on the bottle to make sure the medicine is still good. — called also (Brit) *expiry date*

ex-pire /ɪk'spaɪə/ *verb* -pires; -pired; -pir-ing

1 [no *obj*] : to end : to no longer be valid after a period of time • This offer *expires* (on) March 1. • My driver's license has *expired*.

2 [no *obj*] *formal* : to die • She *expired* after a long illness.

3 /'ɛk'spaɪə/ [+ *obj*] *medical* : to breathe out (air) : EXHALE • measuring the volume of air *expired* from the lungs

time expires ♦ When *time expires* in a game, the clock shows that there is no more time and play stops. • They scored seconds before *time expired*.

ex-pi-ry /ɪk'spaɪəri/ *noun* [noncount] chiefly Brit : the fact of expiring : EXPIRATION • the *expiry* of the waiting period

expiry date *noun, pl* ~ dates [count] Brit : EXPIRATION DATE

ex-plain /ɪk'spleɪn/ *verb* -plains; -plained; -plain-ing

1 [+ *obj*] : to make (something) clear or easy to understand • I need a lawyer to *explain* this contract to me. • The professor *explained* the poem to the class. • She *explained* how the machine worked. • I *explained* to them that I would be available by phone.

2 : to tell, show, or be the reason for or cause of something [+ *obj*] Scientists could not *explain* the strange lights in the sky. • I don't know how to *explain* the dog's strange behavior. • "I need to rest," I *explained* to them. = I *explained* to them that I needed to rest. • We asked him to *explain* his reasons to us. • Can you *explain* why no one was informed earlier? • Well, that *explains* it! • That *explains* why we we're so far behind schedule. [no *obj*] Give me a chance to *explain*.

explain away [phrasal verb] **explain away (something) or explain (something) away** 1 : to make (something) seem less important by telling how it happened, what caused it, etc. • It will be hard for his lawyers to *explain away* this new evidence. • She tried to *explain* her symptoms *away* by insisting she was just overtired. 2 : to give a reason for (a fault, a mistake, etc.) so that you will not be blamed for it • They've tried to *explain away* the delays, citing computer problems.

explain yourself 1 : to give a reason for your behavior • She had a hard time *explaining herself* after the theft was revealed. • I don't think that I should have to *explain myself* to you. 2 : to say something clearly so that it can be understood • Let me try to *explain myself* more clearly.

hasten to explain see HASTEN

— **ex-plain-able** /ɪk'spleɪnəbəl/ *adj* [more ~; most ~] • He thought all behavior was *explainable* in terms of genetics.

ex-pla-na-tion /'ɛksplə'neɪʃən/ *noun, pl* -tions

1 [noncount] : the act or process of making something clear or easy to understand • Some of the more technical terms need/require *explanation*. [=they need to be explained] : the act or process of telling, showing, or being the reason for or cause of something • She declined the offer without (further) *explanation*. • Some of his actions defy *explanation*. [=cannot be explained] • The company offered little *by way of explanation* for the delays. [=as a way of explaining why there were delays]

2 [count] : something (such as a statement or fact) that explains something • The professor's *explanation* was that the poem is really a parody. — often + *for* or *of* • Did the company offer an *explanation* for the delays? • There are several possible *explanations* for the current oil shortage. • a likely/probable/possible/plausible *explanation* of how the accident occurred

ex-plan-a-to-ry /ɪk'splænə'tori, Brit ɪk'splænə'tri/ *adj* : made or included in order to explain something • There are *explanatory* notes at the front of the book. — compare SELF-EXPLANATORY

ex-ple-tive /'ɛksplə'tɪv, Brit ɪk'spli:tɪv/ *noun, pl* -tives

[*count*] : a word or phrase (such as “Damn it!”) that people sometimes say when they are angry or in pain; *especially* : one that is offensive • Angry *expletives* filled the air. • *Expletives* were deleted from the transcript of their conversation.

ex·pli·ca·ble /ɛkˈsplɪkəbəl, ˈɛksplɪkəbəl/ *adj.* *formal* : possible to explain : EXPLAINABLE • phenomena *explicable* by the laws of physics • his least *explicable* mistake — opposite INEXPLICABLE

ex·pli·cate /ˈɛkspləˌkɛt/ *verb* -cates; -cat·ed; -cat·ing [+ *obj*] *formal* : to explain or analyze (something, such as an idea or work of literature) • an essay *explicating* a theory • *explicate* a poem

— **ex·pli·ca·tion** /ˌɛkspləˈkeɪʃən/ *noun*, *pl* -tions [*count*, *noncount*]

ex·plic·it /ɪkˈsplɪsɪt/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]

1 : very clear and complete : leaving no doubt about the meaning • They were given *explicit* instructions. • Changes to the property can't be done without their *explicit* consent. • The law is very *explicit* about how these measures should be enacted. — opposite IMPLICIT

2 a : showing or referring very openly to nudity, violence, or sexual activity • *explicit* photographs • They're concerned about exposing children to (sexually) *explicit* films. • a song with *explicit* lyrics **b** : openly shown • The movie contains scenes of *explicit* violence. • two people engaging in *explicit* sex • sexually *explicit* conduct

— **ex·plic·it·ly** *adv* • We *explicitly* asked for a room with a view. • The building was *explicitly* restricted to official personnel. — **ex·plic·it·ness** *noun* [*noncount*] • sexual *explicitness*

ex·plode /ɪkˈsploud/ *verb* -plodes; -plod·ed; -plod·ing

1 : to suddenly break apart in a violent way with parts flying outward [*no obj*] The bomb could *explode* [=blow up, detonate] at any minute. • One of the shells failed to *explode*. • an *exploding* volcano [+ *obj*] *explode* [=blow up, detonate] a bomb — compare IMplode

2 [*no obj*] **a** : to change in a very sudden and violent way • These occasional skirmishes may soon *explode* into all-out war. **b** : to move with sudden speed and force • The horses *exploded* [=burst] out of the starting gate. • The birds suddenly *exploded* into flight. • We *exploded* [=burst] into action. **c** : to be affected by something very suddenly • The building *exploded* in/into flames/fire. • The audience *exploded* with/in/into laughter. [=everyone burst out laughing]

3 a [*no obj*] : to express emotion in a sudden and violent way • She looked like she was ready to *explode* with anger. **b** [+ *obj*] : to say (something) in a sudden and angry way • “Damn you!” she *exploded*.

4 [+ *obj*] : to show that (something, such as a belief or theory) is false • Science has *exploded* many old theories. • The book *explodes* a number of myths/legends about his youth.

5 [*no obj*] : to increase very quickly • The deer population has recently *exploded*. • the *exploding* [=soaring, rising] costs of childcare • The book has *exploded* in popularity.

exploded *adj.* *technical* : showing the parts of something separately but in correct relationship to each other • an *exploded* view/diagram of an engine

¹ex·ploit /ˈɛkˌsploɪt/ *noun*, *pl* -ploits [*count*] : an exciting act or action — usually plural • performing heroic *exploits* [=feats] • He enjoys talking about his youthful *exploits*. [=adventures] • a book about his sexual *exploits*

²ex·ploit /ɪkˈsploɪt/ *verb* -ploits; -ploit·ed; -ploit·ing [+ *obj*]

1 : to get value or use from (something) • He has never fully *exploited* his talents. • Top athletes are able to *exploit* their opponents' weaknesses. • We need to *exploit* [=take advantage of] this opportunity/situation. • *exploit* natural resources **2** : to use (someone or something) in a way that helps you unfairly • They were accused of *exploiting* [=taking advantage of] migrant workers. • She said the tragedy had been *exploited* by the media.

— **ex·ploit·able** /ɪkˈsploɪtəbəl/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] • *exploitable* resources — **ex·ploit·a·tion** /ˌɛkˌsploɪˈteɪʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*] • a victim of *exploitation* — **ex·ploit·er** *noun*, *pl* -ers [*count*]

ex·plo·ra·tion /ˌɛkspləˈreɪʃən/ *noun*, *pl* -tions : the act of exploring something [*noncount*] space *exploration* • a topic for scholarly *exploration* • the early *exploration* of the West [*count*] early *explorations* of the West

ex·plor·a·to·ry /ɪkˈsplɒrəˌtɔːri, Brit ɪkˈsplɒrətri/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : done or created to find something or to learn more about something • *exploratory* drilling for oil • an *ex-*

ploratory committee • He underwent *exploratory surgery*. [=surgery done to find and identify a problem]

ex·plore /ɪkˈsploʊə/ *verb* -plores; -plored; -plor·ing

1 [+ *obj*] **a** : to look at (something) in a careful way to learn more about it : to study or analyze (something) • Researchers are *exploring* how language is acquired by children. **b** : to talk or think about (something) in a thoughtful and detailed way • The book *explores* a number of controversial issues. • You need to *explore* your feelings on this subject more carefully. • We *explored* various options/alternatives/possibilities. **c** : to learn about (something) by trying it • an opportunity to *explore* different activities • The children were encouraged to *explore* mathematics.

2 [+ *obj*] : to travel over or through (a place) in order to learn more about it or to find something • I decided to go out and *explore* the town. • They were sent to *explore* unknown regions of Africa.

3 [*no obj*] : to make a careful search for something by traveling to different places • companies *exploring* for oil

4 [+ *obj*] : to touch (something) to learn more about it • The doctor *explored* the wound.

— **ex·plor·er** *noun*, *pl* -ers [*count*] • Arctic *explorers*

ex·plo·sion /ɪkˈsplouzən/ *noun*, *pl* -sions [*count*]

1 : the sudden, loud, and violent release of energy that happens when something (such as a bomb) breaks apart in a way that sends parts flying outward • The filmmakers staged the car's *explosion*. • The island was rocked by a series of volcanic *explosions*. • set off an *explosion*

2 a : a sudden and very fast increase • The region has experienced a population *explosion*. • an *explosion* of interest **b** : a sudden expression of some strong emotion • an *explosion* of anger **c** : a sudden occurrence of laughter • His comments prompted an *explosion* of laughter from the crowd.

¹ex·plo·sive /ɪkˈsplousɪv/ *adj*

1 a [*more* ~; *most* ~] : able to cause an explosion • a highly *explosive* substance : used for exploding something • an *explosive* charge • *explosive* devices **b** : relating to an explosion or caused by an explosion • the bomb's *explosive* force

2 [*more* ~; *most* ~]. **a** : tending to get angry very easily • an *explosive* personality • He has an *explosive* temper. **b** : likely to become violent very suddenly • The police are trying to defuse a very *explosive* [=volatile] situation. **c** : happening suddenly and quickly • The region has experienced *explosive* [=rapid] population growth.

²explosive *noun*, *pl* -sives [*count*] : a substance (such as dynamite) that is used to cause an explosion : an explosive substance • the danger of working with *high explosives* [=very powerful explosives]

ex·po·nent /ɪkˈspounənt, ˈɛkˌspounənt/ *noun*, *pl* -nents [*count*]

1 a : someone who supports a particular cause, belief, etc. • He was a leading *exponent* [=supporter, proponent] of the civil rights movement. **b** : someone who is known for a particular method, style, etc. • She has become one of America's foremost *exponents* of the romantic style in interior design.

2 mathematics : a symbol that is written above and to the right of a number to show how many times the number is to be multiplied by itself • The *exponent* 3 in 10³ indicates 10 x 10 x 10.

ex·po·nen·tial /ˌɛkspəˈnentʃəl/ *adj*

1 [*more* ~; *most* ~] : very fast : increasingly rapid • The business has experienced several years of *exponential* growth. • Prices have increased at an *exponential* rate. ✧ *Exponential* growth is literally growth that becomes faster and faster as it continues. In ordinary use, however, *exponential* is understood to mean simply “very fast” when it is used with words like *growth* and *increase*.

2 mathematics : including or using an exponent • 10³ is an *exponential* expression.

— **ex·po·nen·tial·ly** /ˌɛkspəˈnentʃəli/ *adv* • Prices have increased *exponentially*. • *exponentially* rapid growth

¹ex·port /ɛkˈspoʊt/ *verb* -ports; -port·ed; -port·ing [+ *obj*] : to send a product to be sold in another country • countries that *export* oil to the U.S. — opposite IMPORT

— **ex·port·able** /ɛkˈspoʊtəbəl/ *adj* • *exportable* goods — **ex·por·ta·tion** /ˌɛkˌspoʊˈteɪʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*] • the *exportation* [=export] of oil — **ex·port·er** /ɛkˈspoʊtə/ *noun*, *pl* -ers [*count*] • a leading *exporter* of soybeans

²ex·port /ˈɛkˌspoʊt/ *noun*, *pl* -ports

1 [*count*] : something that is exported : a product that is sent to another country to be sold there • *Exports* to China have risen this year.

2 [noncount] : the act of exporting something • goods for *export* [=exportation] • the *export* of wines

— **export** *adj*, always used before a noun • the *export* market • *export* crops

ex·pose /ɪk'spəʊz/ *verb* -pos-es; -posed; -pos-ing [+ *obj*]

1 : to leave (something) without covering or protection • The shingles had fallen off, *exposing* the wood underneath. — often + *to* • The colors will fade if they are *exposed to* sunlight.

2 : to cause (someone) to experience something or to be influenced or affected by something — + *to* • He wants to *expose* his students *to* great works of literature. • The workers were *exposed to* dangerous chemicals. [=they were placed in conditions that left them unprotected from dangerous chemicals] • She hasn't yet been *exposed to* measles. • Children are being *exposed to* violence on television. • His mistakes have *exposed* him *to* ridicule. [=he has been ridiculed because of his mistakes]

3 a : to reveal (something hidden, dishonest, etc.) • Undercover investigators *exposed* the scam. **b** : to reveal the crimes or faults of (someone) • They threatened to *expose* him. — often + *as* • They *exposed* him *as* a fraud.

4 : to let light fall on (film in a camera) in order to create a photograph. • The film had not been properly *exposed*.

— compare OVEREXPOSE, UNDEREXPOSE

expose yourself : to show your sexual organs in public • He was arrested for *exposing himself* (to women) in the park.

ex·po·sé /ˌɛkspəʊˈzeɪ, Brit ɛk'spəʊzeɪ/ *noun*, *pl* -sés [count]

: a news report or broadcast that reveals something illegal or dishonest to the public • a newspaper *exposé* of government corruption • The show aired an *exposé* on the candidate's financial indiscretions.

exposed /ɪk'spəʊzd/ *adj* : not protected or covered • an *exposed* hillside • *exposed* wiring • an *exposed* beam

ex·po·si·tion /ˌɛkspəˈzɪʃən/ *noun*, *pl* -tions

1 *formal* : the act of explaining something : clear explanation [noncount] The subject requires some *exposition*. [count] a clear *exposition* of his ideas

2 [count] : a public show or exhibition • the great Paris *Exposition* of 1899 • have/hold/mount an international *exposition*

ex·pos·i·to·ry /ɪk'spəːzəˌtɔːri, Brit ɪk'spəʊzətri/ *adj*, chiefly US, somewhat *formal* — used to describe writing that is done to explain something • *expository* prose • I'm taking an *expository writing* class this semester.

ex·pos·tu·late /ɪk'spəːstʃəˌleɪt/ *verb* -lates; -lat-ed; -lat-ing [no *obj*] *formal* : to disagree with something or argue against it • She *expostulated* (with us) at length on/about/ concerning the proposed law.

— **ex·pos·tu·la·tion** /ɪk'spəːstʃəˌleɪʃən/ *noun*, *pl* -tions [count, noncount]

ex·po·sure /ɪk'spəʊʒə/ *noun*, *pl* -sures

1 [noncount] : the fact or condition of being affected by something or experiencing something : the condition of being exposed *to* something • *exposure to* heat/cold • *exposure to* infection/danger • children's *exposure to* violence on television • He risks *exposure to* ridicule by saying such things in public.

2 [noncount] : the act of revealing secrets about someone or something • They threatened him with (public) *exposure*. — often + *of* • *exposure of* his criminal past.

3 [noncount] : public attention and notice • The candidates are competing for television/media *exposure*.

4 [count] *photography* **a** : the amount of time during which light is allowed to enter a camera in order to produce a photograph • a three-second *exposure* **b** : a section of a film used for a single photograph • This roll of film has 24 *exposures*.

5 [noncount] *medical* : a condition that results from being outside in cold weather for a long time • The climbers nearly died of *exposure*.

6 [count] : a position that provides a view in a specified direction • The room has a southern *exposure*.

— see also INDECENT EXPOSURE

ex·pound /ɪk'spaʊnd/ *verb* -pounds; -pound-ed;

-pound-ing *formal* : to explain or state (something) : to give details about (something) [+ *obj*] The article *expounds* the virtues of a healthy diet. [no *obj*] When asked to *expound*, he had no comment. — often + *on* • The article *expounds on* the virtues of a healthy diet.

ex·press /ɪk'spres/ *verb* -press-es; -pressed; -press-ing [+ *obj*]

1 a : to talk or write about (something that you are thinking or feeling) • He *expressed* an interest in meeting her. • We *ex-*

pressed (to them) our thoughts/feelings/views on the subject.

• She *expressed* surprise at his rude behavior. **b** : to make (your thoughts and feelings) known by doing something other than talking or writing • Her love of nature is *expressed* [=shown, reflected] in her paintings/music. • Words *can't* (even *begin to*) *express* how grateful I am.

2 : to show (an amount, quantity, etc.) by a sign or a symbol • The results can be *expressed* as a percentage. • The length, *expressed* in centimeters, is 29.

3 chiefly US : to send (a package, letter, etc.) so that it will be delivered more quickly than usual : to send (something) by express • They *expressed* the package to us.

4 : to cause (something) to come out by squeezing or pressing • a room where nursing mothers can *express* [=pump] milk for their babies

express itself/themselves of feelings : to become known or seen as the result of a particular action • His rage and frustration *expressed* [=showed, manifested] *themselves* as/in/ through temper tantrums.

express yourself : to say or show your thoughts and feelings • He has a hard time *expressing himself*. • She felt that she hadn't *expressed herself* correctly. • He *expressed himself* in song.

— **ex·press·ible** /ɪk'spresəbəl/ *adj* • The depth of my gratitude is not *expressible* in words.

2 **express** *adj*, always used before a noun

1 : said or given in a clear way • My *express* [=explicit] orders were for you to go directly home.

2 : of a particular kind • I came for that *express* [=specific] purpose.

3 a : traveling at high speed with few stops • an *express* train/bus/elevator — compare ¹LOCAL **2** **b** : delivered faster than usual • an *express* shipment **c** : designed or intended to be used for fast movement or travel • *express* roads • the *express* lane at the grocery store

— **ex·press·ly** *adv* • Smoking is *expressly* [=explicitly] forbidden.

3 **express** *noun*, *pl* -presses

1 [noncount] : a system for delivering things (such as letters and packages) quickly • He sent the package to us by *express*.

2 [count] : a train or bus that travels quickly with few stops • He takes the *express* to work. — compare ²LOCAL **1**

4 **express** *adv* : by a system that delivers letters and packages quickly : by express • They sent the package *express*.

ex·pres·sion /ɪk'spreʃən/ *noun*, *pl* -sions

1 : the act of making your thoughts, feelings, etc., known by speech, writing, or some other method : the act of expressing something [noncount] freedom of *expression* [=freedom to say and show what you feel and believe] • Dance is a form of artistic/creative *expression*. • She is always looking for new ways to *give expression to* [=to express] her ideas. • Her competitive spirit *found expression* [=was expressed] in sports. [count] an *expression* of affection • *expressions* of anger — see also SELF-EXPRESSION

2 [count] : a word or phrase • a slang *expression* • He uses some very odd *expressions*. • The *expression* "to make fun of" means "to ridicule." ♦ People say *excuse/pardon/forgive the expression* when they are using a word or phrase that might offend or annoy someone. • When you first told me your plan, I thought you were, *pardon the expression*, crazy. • I'm so glad that you've decided to join us. In fact, I'm tickled pink, (if you'll) *excuse the expression*.

3 [count] : the way someone's face looks that shows emotions and feelings • Judging from her *expression*, I think the gift was a complete surprise. • We saw his *expression* change from angry/anger to sad/sadness. • facial *expressions* • She wore/had a smug *expression*.

4 [noncount] : a way of doing something (such as speaking or singing) that shows emotions and feelings • I told him to read the poem with more *expression*.

5 [count] *mathematics* : a symbol or a combination of symbols and signs representing a quantity or process • 10^3 is an exponential *expression*.

— **ex·pres·sion·less** /ɪk'spreʃənləs/ *adj* • an *expressionless* face — **ex·pres·sion·less·ly** *adv* • staring *expressionlessly* at the camera — **ex·pres·sion·less·ness** *noun* [noncount]

ex·pres·sive /ɪk'spresɪv/ *adj* [more ~; most ~]

1 : showing emotions and feelings clearly and openly • an *expressive* performance • She has very *expressive* features. [=her feelings are shown very clearly on her face] • an *expressive* silence/gesture

2 : showing or expressing something — + *of* • His work is *expressive* of his personality. [=his work expresses his personality]

3 : of or relating to expression • the *expressive* function of language

— **ex-pres-sive-ly** *adv* • singing *expressively* — **ex-pres-sive-ness** *noun* [noncount] • the *expressiveness* of her features

ex-press-way /ɪk'spres,wei/ *noun*, *pl* -ways [count] *US* : a large highway that may be entered and left only at certain places

ex-pro-pri-ate /ɪk'sprɒpri,et/ *verb* -ates; -at-ed; -at-ing [+ *obj*] *formal* : to take (someone's property) — used especially when a government takes property for public use • The land was *expropriated* by the state.

— **ex-pro-pri-a-tion** /ɪk'sprɒpri'eɪʃən/ *noun*, *pl* -tions [count, noncount]

ex-pul-sion /ɪk'spʌlʃən/ *noun*, *pl* -sions

1 : the act of forcing someone to leave a place (such as a country or a school) : the act of expelling someone [count] The government engaged in mass *expulsions*. [noncount] He was threatened with *expulsion* (from the school) if his grades didn't improve.

2 [noncount] : the act of forcing something out : the act of expelling something • the *expulsion* of air from the lungs

ex-punge /ɪk'spʌŋdʒ/ *verb* -pung-es; -punged; -pung-ing [+ *obj*] *formal* : to remove (something) completely • The criminal charges were *expunged* [=deleted, erased] from his record. • They hoped to *expunge* [=erase] the memory of that tragic event.

ex-pur-gate /'ɛkspə,geɪt/ *verb* -gates; -gat-ed; -gat-ing [+ *obj*] *formal* : to change (a written work) by removing parts that might offend people • They felt it was necessary to *expurgate* his letters before publishing them.

— **expurgated** *adj* • an *expurgated* edition of his letters

— **ex-pur-ga-tion** /'ɛkspə'geɪʃən/ *noun* [count, noncount]

ex-quis-ite /'ɛk'skwɪzət, 'ɛkskwɪzət/ *adj* [more ~; most ~]

1 : finely done or made • *exquisite* workmanship • a move executed with *exquisite* precision : very beautiful or delicate • *exquisite* flowers • Her singing voice is truly *exquisite*.

2 : very sensitive or fine • They have *exquisite* [=excellent] taste in furniture. • The scenes are described in *exquisite* detail. [=with a lot of very fine details]

3 : extreme or intense • *exquisite* pain/agony • He chose his words with *exquisite* care.

— **ex-quis-ite-ly** *adv* • an *exquisitely* prepared meal — **ex-quis-ite-ness** *noun* [noncount]

ex-tant /'ɛkstənt, Brit ɛk'stænt/ *adj*, *formal* : in existence : still existing • *extant* bird species : not destroyed or lost • There are few *extant* records from that period. • one of the oldest buildings still *extant*

ex-tem-po-ra-ne-ous /'ɛk,stempə'reɪniəs/ *adj* [more ~; most ~] : made up or done without special preparation — usually used to describe public speaking • He made an *extemporaneous* speech. • *extemporaneous* remarks

— **ex-tem-po-ra-ne-ous-ly** *adv* • speaking *extemporaneously*

ex-tend /ɪk'stend/ *verb* -tends; -tend-ed; -tend-ing

1 a [+ *obj*] : to cause (something, such as your arm or leg) to straighten out or to stretch out • *Extend* your arms (out) in front of you. • He *extended* a hand in greeting. • sitting with both legs fully *extended* • The table measures eight feet long when it is fully *extended*. **b** [no *obj*] : to become longer or to be able to become longer • The table *extends* to eight feet in length. • The table *extends* easily.

2 [no *obj*] : to continue in a specified direction or over a specified distance, space, or time • Their jurisdiction *extended* over the whole area. [=included the whole area] • The woods *extend* for miles to the west. • Their knowledge of the family's history *extends* back to colonial times. • Their influence *extends* well beyond their immediate circle of friends. • The organization soon *extended* [=reached] across the country. • His popularity *extends* from coast to coast.

3 [no *obj*] : to involve or include a specified person or thing — + *to* • His interests *extend to* art and literature. • The offer doesn't *extend to* nonmembers.

4 [+ *obj*] : to make (something) longer or greater • She *extended* her visit by a couple of weeks. • measures that might *extend* [=prolong] the patient's life • They scored twice in the third inning to *extend* [=increase] their lead to 6–0.

5 [+ *obj*] **a** : to offer (something, such as an apology) to someone • *extend* an invitation — usually + *to* • I'd like to *ex-*

tend my apologies [=I'd like to apologize] *to* everyone here. • They *extended* a warm welcome *to* us. [=they welcomed us warmly] **b** : to make (something) available — usually + *to* • The store *extends* credit only *to* its regular customers. • It was many years before these rights were *extended to* women. • They plan to *extend* the service *to* people in rural areas.

extend yourself : to work hard : to do things that require effort • She's always willing to *extend herself* for others. • an actor who *extends himself* by choosing difficult roles

— **ex-tend-able** or **ex-tend-ible** /ɪk'stendəbəl/ *adj* • a two-year contract, *extendable* to five years • a chair with *extendable* legs — **ex-tend-er** /ɪk'stendə/ *noun*, *pl* -ers [count]

ex-tend-ed /ɪk'stendəd/ *adj*, always used before a noun

1 : longer than usual or typical : unusually long • We went on an *extended* [=lengthy] vacation. • a period of *extended* hospitalization = an *extended* period of hospitalization

2 : going beyond the usual, original, or basic version of something • Do you want the *extended* service warranty? [=a warranty that covers more things or lasts for a longer period of time] • The word has developed several *extended* [=additional] meanings/senses.

extended family *noun*, *pl* ~ -lies [count] : a family that includes not only parents and children but also other relatives (such as grandparents, aunts, or uncles) — compare NUCLEAR FAMILY

ex-ten-sion /ɪk'stɛnʃən/ *noun*, *pl* -sions

1 : the act of extending something: such as **a** : the act of making something longer or greater [noncount] *extension* of the patient's life [count] He's asking for a contract *extension*.

b : the act of straightening or stretching something (such as an arm or a leg) [count] He did some leg *extensions*. [=exercises in which you extend your legs] [noncount] Make sure that the muscles get the proper amount of *extension*.

2 [count] : extra time allowed for doing something • I missed the deadline but was granted an *extension*.

3 [count] : something (such as an interest or activity) that develops from something else — + *of* • Writing screenplays was a natural/logical *extension* of his career as a novelist and his longtime interest in film. ♦ The phrase *by extension* is used to say that what follows comes from or is connected with something that has already been mentioned. • The new measures benefit taxpayers and, *by extension*, the economy. • He disliked authority and, *by extension*, all government officials.

4 [count] **a** : a part that is added on to something to make it larger or longer • They built an *extension* on their house. • a road *extension* **b** : EXTENSION CORD

5 [count] : an extra telephone that is connected to the main line • We've added another *extension* in our daughter's bedroom.; also : a telephone number that connects to a particular extension • I dialed her *extension*, but she wasn't at her desk. • *Extension* 365, please.

extension cord *noun*, *pl* ~ cords [count] *US* : an electric cord that is used to make another electric cord reach farther — called also *extension*, (Brit) *extension lead*

ex-ten-sive /ɪk'stɛnsɪv/ *adj* [more ~; most ~] : large in size or amount : very full or complete • an *extensive* [=comprehensive] reading list • He's had *extensive* [=considerable] training in this area. • The storm caused *extensive* damage. • *extensive* repairs • an *extensive* series of tests

— **ex-ten-sive-ly** *adv* • She has written *extensively* on this subject. — **ex-ten-sive-ness** *noun* [noncount]

ex-tent /ɪk'stɛnt/ *noun* [noncount]

1 : the range, distance, or space that is covered or affected by something or included in something • She tried to determine the *extent* of the damage. • the full *extent* of human knowledge • They underestimated the *extent* [=size] of the problem. • He questions the *extent* to which these remedies are needed.

2 : the point or limit to which something extends or reaches • We reached the southernmost *extent* [=end] of the peninsula. • He swore to prosecute them *to the fullest extent* of the law. [=as fully as the law allows] • *To what extent* [=how far, how much] can they be trusted?

3 — used to indicate the degree to which something exists, happens, or is true ♦ If you say that something is true *to an extent*, *to some extent*, or *to a certain extent*, you mean that it is partly but not completely true. • *To an extent*, they're both right. • Some critics claim that the government is at fault, and, *to a certain extent*, that's true. Something that is true *to a large extent* or *to a great extent* is mostly true. • These traits are *to a large extent* inherited. [=these traits are

mostly inherited] The phrases *to the extent that*, *to that extent*, and *to a greater/lesser extent* are often used to describe the effect or importance of something in relation to something else. • *To the extent that* he encouraged their bad behavior, he's to blame for it. [=he's partly to blame for their bad behavior because he encouraged it] • He encouraged their bad behavior, and *to that extent* he's to blame for it. • He studied only *to the extent that* was required to pass the exam. [=he studied just enough to pass the exam] • This new tax affects the middle class and, *to a lesser extent*, the rich. • This new tax affects everyone *to a greater or lesser extent*. [=it affects some people more than it does other people] *To the extent that* or *to such an extent that* can also be used to say that something is true to a very extreme degree. • He was fearful *to the extent that* he refused to leave his house. [=he was so fearful that he refused to leave his house] • She has changed *to such an extent that* you wouldn't recognize her.

ex·ten·u·at·ing /ɪk'stɛnjə,wɛrtɪŋ/ *adj* — used to describe something (such as an unusual situation) that makes something (such as a crime or a mistake) seem less serious or deserving of blame; usually used in the phrase **extenuating circumstances** • The company claims that its failure to deliver the materials on time is due to bad weather and other *extenuating circumstances*.

ex·te·ri·or /ɛk'stɪrɪə/ *adj*

1 a : located on the outside of something • an *exterior* [=outer] surface • *exterior* walls **b** : suited for use on outside surfaces • *exterior* paint • *exterior* lights

2 : shown on the outside or surface • They're more concerned with *exterior* [=external] beauty than interior/inner strength. — opposite ¹INTERIOR

2 exterior *noun, pl -ors* [count]

1 : an outer part or surface • The building has a rather plain *exterior*. — opposite ²INTERIOR

2 : the way someone looks or seems to other people : a person's outward appearance — usually singular • Although she was nervous, she maintained a calm *exterior*. [=she looked calm] • Underneath that tough *exterior*, he's really very sentimental.

ex·ter·mi·nate /ɪk'stɛmə,nɛɪt/ *verb -nates; -nat-ed; -nat-ing* [+ *obj*] : to destroy or kill (a group of animals, people, etc.) completely • We made arrangements to have the termites *exterminated*. • The invaders nearly *exterminated* the native people.

— **ex·ter·mi·na·tion** /ɪk'stɛmə'neɪʃən/ *noun, pl -tions* [count, noncount] • *extermination* of household pests — **ex·ter·mi·na·tor** /ɪk'stɛmə,nɛɪtə/ *noun, pl -tors* [count] • We hired an *exterminator* to get rid of the termites.

ex·ter·nal /ɪk'stɛnəl/ *adj*

1 : located, seen, or used on the outside or surface of something • the *external* features of the building • the *external* signs of the disease • This medication is intended only for *external* use. [=for use on the skin] — opposite INTERNAL

2 : coming from outside • *external* pressures • *external* stimuli — opposite INTERNAL

3 : existing or occurring outside your mind • *external* reality — opposite INTERNAL

4 : concerning relationships with foreign countries • *external* [=foreign, international] affairs — opposite INTERNAL

— **ex·ter·nal·ly** *adv*

ex·ter·nals /ɪk'stɛnəlz/ *noun [plural] formal* : the way something looks on the surface or from the outside : external appearances • We should not judge them solely on the basis of *externals*.

ex·tinct /ɪk'stɪŋkt/ *adj*

1 : no longer existing • an *extinct* (species of) animal • Many of these old traditions have since become *extinct*.

2 : no longer active • an *extinct* volcano

ex·tinc·tion /ɪk'stɪŋkʃən/ *noun, pl -tions* : the state or situation that results when something (such as a plant or animal species) has died out completely [noncount] the *extinction* of all life in the region • Several bird species are threatened with *extinction*. = Several bird species are *on the brink of extinction* • the *extinction* of many old traditions [count] Mass *extinctions* of prehistoric animals are known to have occurred.

ex·tin·guish /ɪk'stɪŋgwɪʃ/ *verb -guish-es; -guished; -guish-ing* [+ *obj*]

1 : to cause (something) to stop burning • The fire department was called in to *extinguish* the blaze. • He *extinguished* his cigarette in the ashtray.

2 : to cause the end or death of (something) • They ruthlessly *extinguished* all resistance. • News of the conflict *extin-*

guished our hopes for a peaceful resolution.

— **ex·tin·guish·er** *noun, pl -ers* [count] — see also FIRE EXTINGUISHER

ex·tir·pate /'ɛkstə'peɪt/ *verb -pates; -pat-ed; -pat-ing* [+ *obj*] *formal* : to destroy or remove (something) completely • Such ingrained behavior can never be completely *extirpated*. [=eradicated]

— **ex·tir·pa·tion** /'ɛkstə'peɪʃən/ *noun* [noncount]

ex·tol *also* US **ex·toll** /ɪk'stoul/ *verb -tols also* US **-tolls; -tolled; -tol-ling** [+ *obj*] : to praise (someone or something) highly • They *extolled* [=lauded] the virtues of education. • The health benefits of exercise are widely *extolled*.

ex·tort /ɪk'stoʊt/ *verb -torts; -tort-ed; -tort-ing* [+ *obj*] : to get (something, such as money) from a person by the use of force or threats • The criminals *extorted* large sums of money from their victims. • He was arrested for *extorting* bribes. • He claimed that the confession had been *extorted* (from him) by the police.

— **ex·tort·er** *noun, pl -ers* [count]

ex·tor·tion /ɪk'stoʊʃən/ *noun* [noncount] : the crime of getting money from someone by the use of force or threats • He was arrested and charged with *extortion*. • committing/practicing *extortion*

— **ex·tor·tion·ist** /ɪk'stoʊʃənɪst/ *noun, pl -ists* [count]

ex·tra /'ɛkstrə/ *adj*

1 *always used before a noun* : more than is usual or necessary : ADDITIONAL • a sandwich with *extra* mayonnaise • She got a part-time job to earn some *extra* money. • He gave us an *extra* week to finish the job. • There's no *extra* charge for breakfast. • Room service is/costs an *extra* \$5. = You have to pay an *extra* \$5 for room service.

2 : costing more : requiring additional payment • Breakfast is included in the price, but room service is *extra*. [=you have to pay more for room service]

go the extra mile see MILE

2 extra *adv*

1 : beyond the usual size or amount • *extra* long • *extra* large eggs • You have to pay \$5 *extra* for room service.

2 *somewhat informal* : very or unusually • The food was *extra* good. • The roads are slippery, so be *extra* careful. • This is an *extra* special occasion. • She tried *extra* hard.

3 extra *noun, pl -tras* [count]

1 : something that is added especially to make a product, service, etc., more appealing • The package deal includes some nice *extras*. • The bill doesn't include any hidden *extras*. [=extra costs]

2 : a person hired to act in a group scene in a movie • Thousands of *extras* were hired for the battle scene.

extra- *prefix* : outside or beyond • an *extramarital* affair — opposite INTRA-

extra-base hit *noun, pl ~ hits* [count] *baseball* : a double, triple, or home run

1 ex·tract /ɪk'strækt/ *verb -tracts; -tract-ed; -tract-ing* [+ *obj*]

1 : to remove (something) by pulling it out or cutting it out • He *extracted* a credit card from his wallet. • I had to have a tooth *extracted*. • The tumor was surgically *extracted*.

2 a : to get (information, a response, etc.) from someone who does not want to give it • We finally *extracted* a confession from him. • *extract* a promise **b** : to get (something, such as information) from something • Investigators were able to *extract* useful information from the company's financial records. • They are hoping to *extract* new insights from the test results.

3 : to get (a substance) from something by the use of a machine or chemicals • The machines *extract* the juice from the apples. • oil *extracted* from sunflower seeds • venom *extracted* from poisonous snakes

4 : to choose and take out (parts of a written work) for a separate use • He *extracted* [=excerpted] a few lines from a favorite poem for use in his speech.

extract yourself : to remove yourself from a difficult situation • He has been unable to *extract himself* from his legal difficulties.

— **ex·tract·able** /ɪk'stræktəbəl/ *adj* — **ex·tract·or** /ɪk'stræktə/ *noun, pl -tors* [count] • a tooth *extractor* • a juice *extractor*

2 ex·tract /'ɛk'strækt/ *noun, pl -tracts*

1 : a substance that you get from something by using a machine or chemicals [noncount] The recipe calls for a tablespoon of vanilla *extract*. [count] herbal *extracts*

2 [count] : a short piece of writing that is taken from a longer

work (such as a book) • The anthology includes *extracts* [=excerpts] from the works of several well-known authors.

ex-trac-tion /ɪk'strækʃən/ *noun*, *pl* -tions

1 : the act or process of getting something by pulling it out, forcing it out, etc. : the act of extracting something [count] tooth *extractions* and other dental procedures [noncount] the *extraction* of teeth by dentists • the *extraction* of juices from plant matter

2 [noncount] — used after *of* to describe the origin of a person or family • a family *of* Italian *extraction* [=a family whose ancestors came to another country from Italy]

ex-tra-cur-ric-u-lar /ˌɛkstrəkə'ɹɪkjələ/ *adj* — used to describe extra activities (such as sports) that can be done by the students in a school but that are not part of the regular schedule of classes • *extracurricular* activities

— **extracurricular** *noun*, *pl* -lars [count] • The school offers a variety of *extracurriculars*. [=extracurricular activities]

ex-tra-dite /ˌɛkstrə'daɪt/ *verb* -dites; -dit-ed; -dit-ing [+*obj*] *law* : to send (a person who has been accused of a crime) to another state or country for trial • He will be *extradited* from the U.S. to Canada to face criminal charges there. • The prisoner was *extradited* across state lines.

— **ex-tra-di-tion** /ˌɛkstrə'dɪʃən/ *noun*, *pl* -tions [noncount] The accused terrorists are awaiting *extradition*. [count] The government has agreed to the *extraditions* of the accused terrorists.

ex-tra-mar-i-tal /ˌɛkstrə'merət/ *adj* : happening outside of a marriage — used to describe sexual relations between a married person and someone who is not that person's husband or wife • an *extramarital* [=adulterous] affair

ex-tra-ne-ous /ˌɛk'streɪniəs/ *adj* : not forming a necessary part of something • She sped up the process by eliminating all *extraneous* steps. : not important • *extraneous* [=irrelevant] information/details

ex-tra-or-di-nary /ɪk'stroʊdə'neri, Brit ɪk'stroːdənri/ *adj* [more ~; most ~]

1 : very unusual : very different from what is normal or ordinary • The researchers made an *extraordinary* discovery. • It's an *extraordinary* situation. • *extraordinary* rudeness/insensitivity • The race is an *extraordinary* event. • They convened an *extraordinary* [=special] meeting of the Security Council.

2 : extremely good or impressive • She was a woman of *extraordinary* [=great, remarkable] intelligence. • The child has *extraordinary* [=exceptional] abilities. • The food was *extraordinary*.

— **ex-tra-or-di-nar-i-ly** /ɪk'stroʊdə'nerəli, Brit ɪk'stroːdənri/ *adv* • an *extraordinarily* intelligent person • *extraordinarily* good/bad weather

extra point *noun*, *pl* ~ **points** [count] *American football* : a point scored after a touchdown by kicking the ball between the goalposts or by carrying or throwing it a short distance into the end zone

ex-trap-o-late /ɪk'stræpə'leɪt/ *verb* -lates; -lat-ed; -lat-ing *formal* : to form an opinion or to make an estimate about something from known facts [+*obj*] We can *extrapolate* the number of new students entering next year by looking at how many entered in previous years. — often + *from* • They *extrapolated* these results *from* their research. [no *obj*] With such a small study it is impossible to *extrapolate* accurately. — often + *from* • She *extrapolated from* last year's data to arrive at her estimate.

— **ex-trap-o-la-tion** /ɪk'stræpə'leɪʃən/ *noun*, *pl* -tions [count, noncount]

ex-tra-sen-so-ry perception /ˌɛkstrə'sensəri-/ *noun* [singular] : the ability to know things (such as what another person is thinking or what will happen in the future) that cannot be known by normal use of the senses — called also *ESP*

ex-tra-ter-res-tri-al /ˌɛkstrətə'restriəl/ *adj* : coming from or existing outside the planet Earth • *extraterrestrial* life • *extraterrestrial* beings/intelligence

— **extraterrestrial** *noun*, *pl* -als [count] • a movie about an *extraterrestrial* [=an extraterrestrial being]

ex-trav-a-gance /ɪk'strævɪɡəns/ *noun*, *pl* -ganc-es

1 [noncount] : the act or practice of spending a lot of money : wasteful or careless spending • The reorganization of the department was aimed at reducing *extravagance*. • his *extravagance* with money

2 [count] : a special purchase that costs more than you usually spend • That coat is an *extravagance* that you can't af-

ford. • Going to the play will be our one *extravagance* for this vacation.

3 [noncount] : the quality of something that is very expensive or fancy : an extravagant quality • I was shocked by the *extravagance* of their lifestyle. • The church is known for the *extravagance* of its architecture.

ex-trav-a-gant /ɪk'strævɪɡənt/ *adj* [more ~; most ~]

1 a : more than is usual, necessary, or proper • He went to *extravagant* [=elaborate, extreme] lengths to impress his boss.

• The brunch featured an *extravagant* [=lavish] assortment of entrees. • *extravagant* praise • The company has been making *extravagant* claims/promises about the drug's effectiveness.

b : very fancy • an *extravagant* display • The film is notable for its *extravagant* settings and special effects.

2 a : very expensive and not necessary • an *extravagant* purchase • We're going on a less *extravagant* vacation this year.

b : spending a lot of money • On my income, I can't afford to be *extravagant*. [=I can't afford to buy expensive things that I don't need] • Her *extravagant* spending has to stop.

— **ex-trav-a-gant-ly** *adv* • Her work was praised *extravagantly*. • an *extravagantly* expensive wedding

ex-trav-a-gan-za /ɪk'strævə'gænzə/ *noun*, *pl* -zas [count] : a very large and exciting show or event • a musical *extravaganza*

extravert *variant spelling of EXTROVERT*

ex-treme /ɪk'stri:m/ *adj*

1 : very great in degree • The plant is sensitive to *extreme* heat and cold. • They are living in *extreme* poverty. • If you have to go out in the storm, use *extreme* caution. [=be very careful] • *Extreme* accuracy is required. • *extreme* old age

2 [more ~; most ~] : very serious or severe • She went on an *extreme* diet. • Many thought that the punishment was too *extreme* for the crime. • *extreme* weather conditions • This situation calls for *extreme* [=drastic] measures. • The plan was rejected as too *extreme*. • This is an *extreme* example of what can happen when a company grows too quickly.

3 [more ~; most ~] : very far from agreeing with the opinions of most people : not moderate • He has *extreme* opinions when it comes to politics. • Members of the *extreme* right/left opposed the legislation.

4 *always used before a noun* : in the farthest possible position • In the photo, she is at/on the *extreme* right/left. [=she is in the position that is farthest to the right/left] • The city is in the *extreme* northern part of the state.

5 sports a : unusual and dangerous • *extreme* sports • He is a fan of *extreme* skiing/snowboarding. **b** *always used before a noun, US* : involved in an unusually dangerous sport : competing in an extreme sport • an *extreme* athlete • He is an *extreme* snowboarder/skier.

go to extreme lengths see LENGTH

— **ex-treme-ly** *adv* • It is *extremely* [=very] hot/cold in here. • She is *extremely* generous. • The story has an *extremely* complicated plot. • It is *extremely* [=highly, very] unlikely that we will know anyone there.

extreme *noun*, *pl* **ex-tremes** [count]

1 : either one of two opposite conditions, feelings, positions, etc., that are thought of as being far from what is normal or reasonable • After spending lavishly for years, the company has now gone to the opposite/other *extreme* and has cut expenses drastically. • His mood changed/swung *from one extreme to the other*. — often plural • experiencing *extremes* of emotion • The temperature in the desert ranges between *extremes* of heat and cold. • Their political views represent the *extremes* within the party. • There are people at both *extremes* within the party.

2 : an amount or degree that is far beyond what is normal or reasonable • The movie changes the story to such an *extreme* [=changes it so much] that it's hardly recognizable. • They are being pushed/driven to ridiculous *extremes*. [=being forced to do much more than seems reasonable] ♦ If you *carry/take (something) to extremes* or *go to extremes*, you do much more than most people would consider reasonable or normal. • The problems in our school system can be solved without *going to (such) extremes*. • Problems can occur when people *carry/take dieting to extremes*.

in the extreme *formal* : to the greatest possible degree — used to make a statement more forceful • I'm finding it difficult *in the extreme* [=very/extremely difficult] to deal with this situation.

ex-trem-ism /ɪk'stri:mɪzəm/ *noun* [noncount] : belief in and support for ideas that are very far from what most people consider correct or reasonable • political *extremism*

ex-trem-ist /ɪk'stri:mɪst/ *noun, pl -ists* [count] : someone who has extreme ideas about politics, religion, etc. • *Extremists in the party view him as too conservative.* • A group of *extremists* took several hostages.

– **extremist** *adj* [more ~; most ~] • *extremist* tendencies/beliefs

ex-trem-i-ty /ɪk'streməti/ *noun, pl -ties*

1 [count] : a hand or foot — usually plural • You will feel the effects of the cold in your *extremities*. [=hands and feet]

2 [count] : the farthest limit, point, or part of something • We lived on the island's westernmost *extremity*. [=the part of the island that is farthest to the west]

3 *formal* : a very great or extreme degree or amount of something (such as emotion or pain) [noncount] The *extremity* of her grief is impossible to imagine. [count] They endured *extremities* of suffering. [=they endured extreme suffering]

ex-tri-cate /'ekstrə'keɪt/ *verb -cates; -cat-ed; -cat-ing* [+ *obj*] : to free or remove (someone or something) from something (such as a trap or a difficult situation) • Several survivors were *extricated* from the wreckage. • They *extricated* the tractor from the mud. • She hasn't been able to *extricate* herself from her legal problems.

ex-trin-sic /'ek'strɪnzɪk/ *adj, formal* : not part of something : coming from the outside of something • You have to consider any *extrinsic* factors in the success of the business. • *extrinsic* circumstances — opposite **INTRINSIC**

ex-tro-vert also **ex-tra-vert** /'ekstrə,vət/ *noun, pl -verts* [count] : a friendly person who likes being with and talking to other people : an outgoing person — opposite **INTROVERT**

– **ex-tro-vert-ed** also **ex-tra-vert-ed** /'ekstrə,vətəd/ *adj* [more ~; most ~] • He is the most *extroverted* [=outgoing] member of the family.

ex-trude /ɪk'stru:d/ *verb ex-trudes; ex-trud-ed; ex-trud-ing* [+ *obj*] *technical*

1 : to force, press, or push (something) out • The machine *extrudes* enough molten glass to fill the mold.

2 : to shape (something) by forcing it through a hole • The plastic is *extruded* as a strong, continuous sheet. • a toy made from *extruded* plastic

ex-u-ber-ant /ɪg'zu:bərənt, Brit ɪg'zju:bərənt/ *adj* [more ~; most ~]

1 : very lively, happy, or energetic : filled with energy and enthusiasm • His *exuberant* personality makes him fun to be around. • *exuberant* music

2 : existing in large amounts : very plentiful • *exuberant* blossoms

– **ex-u-ber-ance** /ɪg'zu:bərəns, Brit ɪg'zju:bərəns/ *noun* [noncount] • youthful *exuberance* – **ex-u-ber-ant-ly** *adv* • an *exuberantly* joyful performance

ex-ude /ɪg'zu:d/ *verb ex-udes; ex-ud-ed; ex-ud-ing*

1 **a** [+ *obj*] : to produce a liquid or smell that flows out slowly • Pine trees *exude* a sticky substance. • The flowers *exuded* a sweet fragrance. **b** [no *obj*] : to flow out slowly — usually + *from* • Moisture *exuded* from the walls of the cave. • A sticky substance *exuded* [=oozed] from the pine tree.

2 [+ *obj*] : to show (a quality, emotion, etc.) very clearly or strongly • She *exudes* authority/charm. [=she has a great deal of authority/charm] • They *exuded* elegance/confidence.

ex-ult /ɪg'zʌlt/ *verb -ults; -ulted; -ulting*

1 [no *obj*] : to feel or show great happiness — often + *at, in, or over* • The team *exulted* in their victory. • She *exulted* over her students' test scores.

2 [+ *obj*] : to say (something) in a very excited and happy way • "That was the best meal I've ever had!" he *exulted*.

Do not confuse *exult* with *exalt*.

ex-ult-ant /ɪg'zʌltənt/ *adj* [more ~; most ~] : very happy and excited • The crowd let out an *exultant* cheer. • Researchers are *exultant* over/about the new discovery.

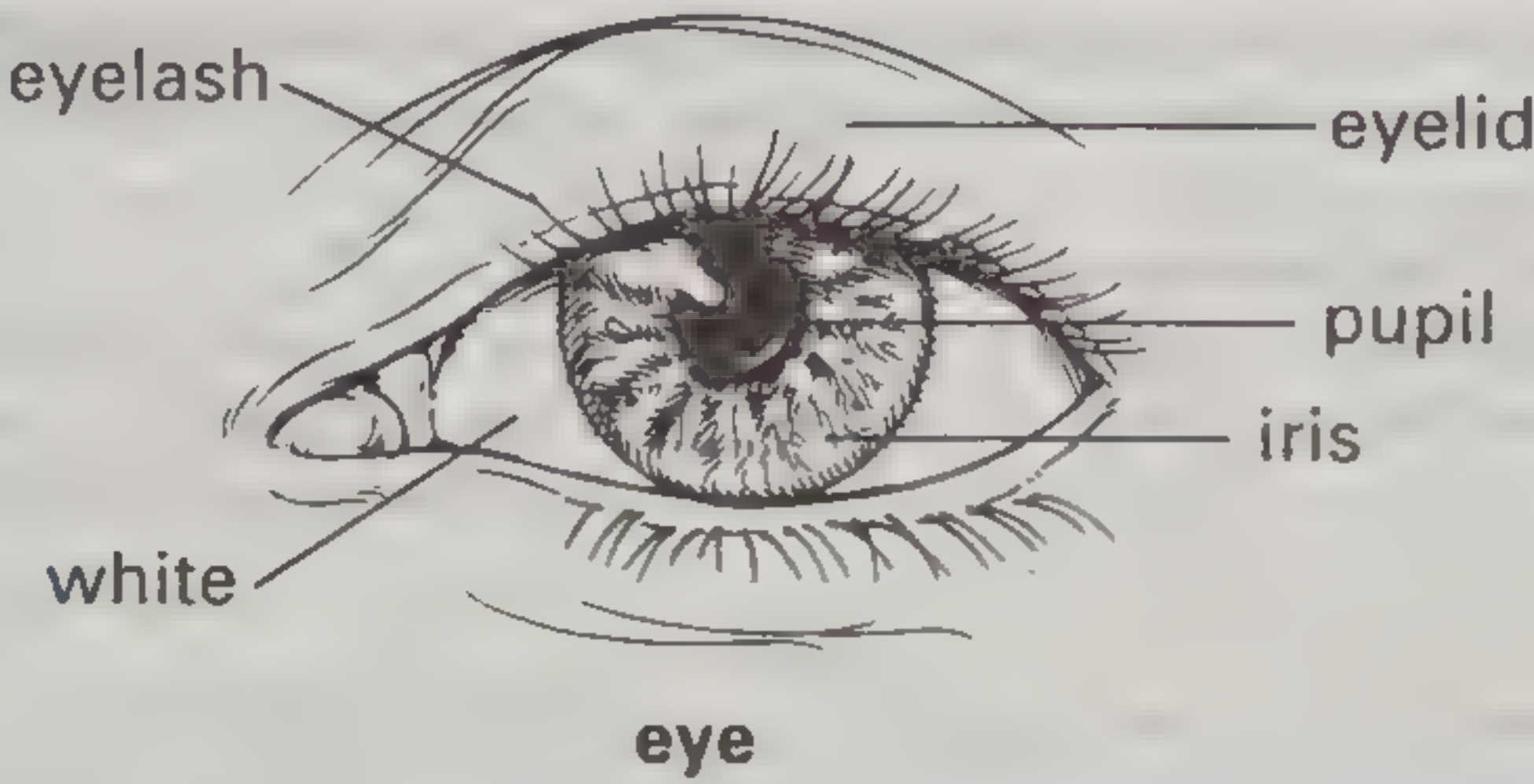
– **ex-ult-ant-ly** *adv*

ex-ul-ta-tion /,ɛk,sʌl'teɪʃən, ,ɛg,zʌl'teɪʃən/ *noun* [noncount] : a feeling of great happiness and excitement : an exultant feeling • The crowd cheered in *exultation*.

–**ey** see -Y

1 eye /'aɪ/ *noun, pl eyes*

1 [count] : the part of the body that you see with • Her *eyes* slowly became accustomed to the dark. • He wears a patch over one *eye*. • I have something in my *eye*. • He has (a pair of) bright blue *eyes*. • bright/sad/sleepy *eyes* • She has good/strong/bad/weak *eyes*. [=eyesight] • Her *eyes* lit up [=she



looked excited and happy] when he showed her the ring. • His *eyes* were *popping out of his head* with astonishment [=he looked very astonished] when he saw how big it was! • He punched him *right between the eyes*. [=punched him hard in the face] • She looked me (right) *in the eye* [=she looked directly at me] and told me I was fired. • The garden is *a feast for the eyes*. [=the garden is very beautiful] • The display was very pleasing *to the eye*. [=pleasing to look at] • I measured the distance *by eye*. = I measured the distance *with my eye*. [=by looking at it to get a rough idea of its size] • Their daughter came home from school *with tears in her eyes*. [=she was crying] • Seeing her again *brought tears to my eyes*. = Seeing her again *brought a tear to my eye*. [=made me shed tears] • He *had/kept half an eye on* [=he occasionally looked at] the TV while he read the paper.

2 [singular] **a** : an ability to understand and appreciate something seen • Only a trained *eye* can tell the difference between the original painting and a good copy. • For decorating, they rely on her discerning/discriminating/expert *eye*. • He has an artist's *eye* for color. ♦ If you *have an eye for* something or a *good/keen/sharp eye for* something, you have a special ability to recognize a particular thing or quality. • He *has a keen eye for* detail. • He *has a good eye for* quality. **b** — used to describe the way something looks to you • It looks a little awkward *to my eye*. [=it looks awkward to me] **c** : a way of looking at or judging something • He reviewed the proposal with a jaundiced/critical *eye*. • The biographer *cast a cold/critical/skeptical eye* on the artist's life.

3 [count] — used to describe where someone is looking • Her *eye* was attracted to the bright colors in the painting. • She *dropped her eyes* [=she looked down] when he looked at her. = Her *eyes* *fell* when he looked at her. • He *averted his eyes* [=he looked away] when she approached him. • I saw something moving *out of the corner of my eye*. [=to the side of where I was looking] • Her *eyes* *fell on* [=she noticed] a piece of evidence no one had noticed before. • *All eyes were on her* [=everyone was looking at her] as she entered the room. • She *fixed her eyes on* me [=she kept looking or staring at me] for a long time before answering.

4 [count] : a way of looking at or thinking about something • We need to look at this problem with a fresh *eye*. [=to look at the problem in a new way] • *Beauty is in the eye of the beholder*. [=different people have different ideas about what is beautiful] — often plural • He was guilty in the *eyes* of the police. [=the police considered him guilty] • He was handsome in her *eyes*. [=she thought he was handsome] • In the *eyes* [=opinion] of many, he is the best person for the job.

5 [count] : the hole through the top of a needle • the *eye* of a needle

6 [count] : a loop that a hook fits into to fasten or attach something

7 [count] : an area on a potato from which a new plant can grow : a bud on a potato

8 [count] : the center of a storm (such as a hurricane) where there is little wind or rain and sometimes there is clear sky • The *eye* of the storm should reach the coast by morning.

all eyes : watching something or someone closely : very attentive • She was *all eyes* as I opened the box.

an eye for an eye or an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth — used to say that a person who has committed a crime should be given punishment that is the same as or as serious as the crime • The ancient code of law called for punishment in the form of *an eye for an eye*.

as far as the eye could see : as far as could be seen • The crowd stretched away *as far as the eye could see*.

a sight for sore eyes see ¹SIGHT

a twinkle in your eye see ¹TWINKLE

bawl your eyes out see BAWL

before your eyes or in front of your eyes ♦ If something happens (right) *before your eyes* or *in front of your* (very) *eyes*, it happens in a very open and visible way so that you

can see it very clearly. • Technology is changing *right before our eyes*. • We were watching a disaster take place *in front of our very eyes*.

can't believe your eyes see BELIEVE

cast/run your eye over : to read it or look at (something) quickly. • Please *run your eye over* this and let me know what you think. • She *cast her eye over* the apartment, appalled by the mess.

catch your eye see ¹CATCH

close/shut your eyes to : to refuse to notice or accept the truth or existence of (something) : to ignore (something). • Our legislators have *closed their eyes to* the poverty that surrounds them.

cock an/your eye see ²COCK

cry your eyes out see ¹CRY

easy on the eyes see ¹EASY

eyes in the back of your head ✧ When people are surprised that you have seen or noticed something that is behind you, they may say that you have *eyes in the back of your head*. • How did you know we were here? You must have *eyes in the back of your head*!

feast your eyes on see ²FEAST

for your eyes only : intended to be seen only by you. • This memo is *for your eyes only*.

give (someone) the eye informal : to look at (someone) in a way that shows sexual attraction. • Several men were *giving her the eye* across the bar.

have/keep an/your eye out for : to be looking for (someone or something) : to hope to see or find (someone or something). • I'm *keeping my eye out for* a good cheap used car. • He'll be here soon, so *keep your eye out for* him.

have an eye to/toward : to have (something) in your thoughts as a goal or purpose. • She *has an eye to* attending graduate school. [=she hopes to attend graduate school]

(have) stars in your eyes see ¹STAR

have your eye on ¹ : to watch (someone or something) closely. • I'll *have my eye on* the kids while they're swimming. ² : to be thinking about buying (something). • I *have my eye on* a new car. • She's *had her eye on* that house for a long time.

in a pig's eye *US slang* — used to express strong disagreement. • You want me to apologize to him? *In a pig's eye!* [=Never!]

in the blink of an eye see ²BLINK

in the public eye : in a position that receives a lot of public notice and attention. • The job requires someone who is comfortable being *in the public eye*.

in the twinkle/twinkling of an eye : in a very short time : very quickly. • He was back *in the twinkle/twinkling of an eye*.

in your mind's eye ✧ If you see something *in your mind's eye*, you imagine or remember how it looks. • I can still see the old playground *in my mind's eye*.

keep an/your eye on : to watch or take care of (someone or something). • Will you *keep an eye on* my suitcase (for me) while I get something to eat?

keep your eye on the ball see ¹BALL

keep your eyes glued to informal : to watch (something) very closely for a long time. • They *kept their eyes glued to* the television, waiting for more news about the accident.

keep your eyes open or keep your eyes peeled or Brit keep your eyes skinned informal : to look or watch closely in order to see or find (something). • We *kept our eyes peeled* for a sign that would tell us where to turn.

lay/set eyes on or Brit clap eyes on : to see or look at (someone or something). • I hope never to *lay eyes on* him again! • We liked the house from the moment we *set eyes on* it. [=the moment when we first saw it]

make eyes at informal : to look at (someone) in a way that shows sexual attraction. • Some guy was *making eyes at* her from across the room.

more than meets the eye ✧ If something is *more than meets the eye* or there is *more to something than meets the eye*, there is more to it than there appears to be at first. • There is *more to this proposal than meets the eye*.

my eye informal — used to express surprise or mild disagreement. • A diamond, *my eye!* That's glass!

not bat an eye see ⁴BAT

only have eyes for : to only be attracted to (a particular person) : to only feel love for (someone). • He *only has eyes for* you.

open someone's eyes : to cause someone to notice or be aware of something important. • The experience really

opened his eyes and changed the way he felt about his life.

— often + *to*. • It's time they *opened their eyes to* the truth. •

His film helped *open people's eyes to* the problem.

open your eyes : to begin to notice or be aware of something important. • You need to *open your eyes* and face the truth. — often + *to*. • We have to *open our eyes to* these problems and stop ignoring them.

pull the wool over someone's eyes see WOOL

roving eye see ROVING

run your eye down : to quickly read or look at (something, such as a list). • She *ran her eye down* the list looking for her name.

see eye to eye : to have the same opinion : AGREE — usually used in negative statements. • They don't *see eye to eye* (with each other) on this issue.

take your eyes off : to stop looking at (someone or something). • I *took my eyes off* the road for one second. • She was so beautiful, he *couldn't take his eyes off* her.

the apple of someone's eye see APPLE

turn a blind eye see ¹BLIND

under the eye of : while being watched by (someone). • Students work *under the watchful/vigilant eye of* their teacher.

up to your eyes : deeply involved in or affected by something. • We're *up to our eyes* in work. [=we are very busy] • They're *up to their eyes* in debt.

with an eye to/toward : with (something) in your thoughts as a goal or purpose. • They hired him *with an eye toward* increased sales. • They bought the house *with an eye toward* its restoration. • He took the job *with an eye to the future* [=he took the job because he felt it would help him in the future]

with your/both eyes open : fully aware of what could happen. • I went into the job *with my eyes (wide) open*. • If you do this, you need to do it *with both eyes open*.

with your eyes shut/closed informal : with little or no effort : very easily. • She could run that company *with her eyes shut*.

your eyes are bigger than your stomach ✧ If *your eyes are bigger than your stomach*, you have taken more food than you can possibly eat. • I can't finish my meal—I guess *my eyes were bigger than my stomach!*

— see also BLACK EYE, EVIL EYE, PRIVATE EYE, RIB EYE, SEEING EYE

²**eye verb eyes; eyed; eye-ing or ey-ing** [+ *obj*] : to watch or look at (someone or something) in a very close or careful way. • I saw someone *eyeing* me from across the street. • The manager *eyed* us (up and down) as we walked into the restaurant.

¹**eye-ball** /'aɪ,bɔ:l/ *noun, pl -balls* [*count*] : the entire round part of the eye

up to your eyeballs informal : deeply involved in something. • We're *up to our eyeballs* in work. [=we are very busy]

²**eyeball verb -balls; -balled; -ball-ing** [+ *obj*] *informal* : to look at or stare at (someone or something). • The police *eyeballed* [=eyed] the suspects. • The children were *eyeballing* the desserts.

eye-brow /'aɪ,braʊ/ *noun, pl -brows* [*count*] : the line of hair that grows over your eye — see picture at FACE ✧ To *raise an/your eyebrow* is to move your eyebrow up in a way that shows surprise or mild disapproval. To *raise eyebrows* is to cause other people to react in this way. These phrases are often used figuratively. • No one *raised an eyebrow* [=no one expressed surprise] when he announced that he was planning to run for governor. • His recent public statements have *raised* (a few) *eyebrows*. [=people have reacted with surprise and disapproval to his recent public statements]

eye candy *noun* [*noncount*] *informal* : someone or something that is attractive but is not serious or interesting. • A lot of the material on their Web site is just *eye candy*.

eye-catching /'aɪ,kætʃɪŋ, 'aɪ,ketʃɪŋ/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : very noticeable because of being unusual or attractive. • The movie features *eye-catching* special effects. • an *eye-catching* advertisement • *eye-catching* colors/styles — see also *catch your eye* at ¹CATCH

— **eye-catching-ly** *adv*

eye chart *noun, pl ~ charts* [*count*] : a chart that has numbers and letters of different sizes and that is used for testing someone's vision

eye contact *noun* [*noncount*] : a situation in which two people are looking directly into each other's eyes. • He maintained *eye contact* with me throughout the conversation. •

The speaker *made eye contact* with audience members. • The jury *avoided eye contact* with the defendant as the verdict was read.

eyed /'aɪd/ *adj* : having an eye or eyes of a specified kind or number — used in combination • a brown-eyed boy • one-eyed

eye-drop-per /'aɪ,drɑ:pə/ *noun, pl -pers* [count] : a small tube that is used to measure out drops of liquid : DROPPER

eye-ful /'aɪ,ful/ *noun* [singular] *informal*

1 : something that is very surprising, attractive, etc., to look at • The view of the mountains is an *eyeful*.

2 : an attractive person : a beautiful woman • She's a real *eyeful*!

get/have an eyeful ✧ If you *get/have an eyeful* of something or if someone *gives you an eyeful* of something, you see it very clearly or you see a lot of it or too much of it. • They wanted to see nature and *got an eyeful* during the camping trip. These phrases often refer to seeing something shocking, such as a person who is naked. • I opened the door to the locker room and *got quite an eyeful*.

eye-glass /'aɪ,glæs, Brit 'aɪ,glɑ:s/ *noun, pl -glass-es*

1 [count] *old-fashioned* : a single lens that is worn over your eye to help you see : MONOCLE

2 *eyeglasses* [plural] *chiefly US* : a pair of lenses set into a frame and worn over your eyes to help you see : GLASSES • She left her *eyeglasses* at work.

eye-lash /'aɪ,læʃ/ *noun, pl -lash-es* [count] : any one of the hairs that grow along the top of the eyelid • She has beautiful dark *eyelashes*. [=lashes] • false *eyelashes* — see picture at EYE

not bat an eyelash see ⁴BAT

eye-let /'aɪ,lət/ *noun, pl -lets* [count] : a small hole or opening in a material (such as cloth or leather) for a string or rope to pass through; *also* : a metal or plastic ring that strengthens such an opening

eye level *noun* [singular] : a level that is as high as a person's eyes • He hung the picture at *eye level*. • The hook is just above *eye level*.

eye-lid /'aɪ,lɪd/ *noun, pl -lids* [count] : either one of the two movable pieces of skin that cover your eye when it is closed • the upper/lower *eyelid* of the left eye — see picture at EYE *not bat an eyelid* see ⁴BAT

eye-lin-er /'aɪ,lɪnə/ *noun, pl -ers* [count, noncount] : a type of makeup used to put a dark line around the eyes

eye-open-er /'aɪ,oupənə/ *noun, pl -ers* [count] *informal* : something that shows or teaches you something in a surprising way • Traveling abroad can be a real *eye-opener* to many people. • They say her biography is quite an *eye-opener*. • The speech was an *eye-opener* for us. — see also *open your eyes* at ²OPEN

— **eye-open-ing** /'aɪ,oupənɪŋ/ *adj* [more ~; most ~] • Traveling abroad was an *eye-opening* experience. • The movie has some *eye-opening* special effects.

eye-piece /'aɪ,pi:s/ *noun, pl -piec-es* [count] : the part of a telescope or microscope that you look through

eye shadow *noun, pl ~ -ows* [count, noncount] : a type of colored makeup that is put on the eyelids — see picture at GROOMING

eye-sight /'aɪ,sait/ *noun* [noncount] : the ability to see : sight or vision • He wears glasses because his *eyesight* is not good. • failing *eyesight* • keen *eyesight*

eye socket *noun, pl ~ -ets* [count] : either one of the hollow places in the skull that hold the eyeballs

eye-sore /'aɪ,sɔə/ *noun, pl -sores* [count] : an ugly object or building • The shack is a real *eyesore*.

eye-strain /'aɪ,streɪn/ *noun* [noncount] : a tired and unpleasant feeling in your eyes • After looking at the computer screen all day she had *eyestrain* and a stiff neck.

eye-tooth /'aɪ'tu:θ/ *noun, pl -teeth* /-'ti:θ/ [count] : a pointed tooth : CANINE ✧ If you say you would *give your eye-teeth* for something, it means that you want to do or have it very much. • Many journalists would *give their eyeteeth* for an opportunity like this.

eye-wash /'aɪ,wɑ:ʃ/ *noun* [noncount]

1 : a liquid used for washing the eyes

2 *informal + old-fashioned* : foolish words : NONSENSE • He says he'll quit his job, but we know that's just *eyewash*.

eyewear *noun* [noncount] : glasses, sunglasses, etc. • protective *eyewear* • a shop that specialized in fashionable *eyewear*

eye-wit-ness /'aɪ'wɪtnəs/ *noun, pl -ness-es* [count] : a person who sees something happen and is able to describe it • The police are hoping to locate an *eyewitness* to the shooting. • He was able to give an *eyewitness* account of the shooting.

eyrie *chiefly Brit spelling of AERIE*

e-zine /'i:zi:n/ *noun, pl -zines* [count] : an electronic magazine : a magazine that is on the Internet

F

¹**f** or **F** /'ɛf/ *noun, pl f's or fs or F's or Fs* /'ɛfs/

1 : the sixth letter of the English alphabet [count] The word "foot" begins with an *f*. [noncount] The word "foot" begins with *f*.

2 : a musical note or key referred to by the letter F : the fourth tone of a C-major scale [count] play/sing an *F* [non-count] the key of *F*

3 [count] : a grade that is given to a student who is doing very poor work • I got an *F* on the test.

²**f** *abbr* 1 female 2 feminine 3 forte — used in music

F *abbr* Fahrenheit • Water freezes at 32 degrees *F*.

fa or *chiefly Brit fah* /'fɑ:/ *noun* [noncount] *music* : the fourth note of a musical scale • do, re, mi, *fa*, sol, la, ti

FAA *abbr* Federal Aviation Administration • a ruling by the *FAA* • an *FAA* official ✧ The Federal Aviation Administration is a part of the U.S. federal government that is responsible for controlling the use of aircraft.

fab /'fæb/ *adj, informal + old-fashioned* : extremely good : FABULOUS • We had a *fab* time.

fa-ble /'feɪbəl/ *noun, pl fa-bles*

1 [count] : a short story that usually is about animals and that is intended to teach a lesson • Aesop's *fables* • a *fable* about busy ants

2 : a story or statement that is not true [count] The story that he won the battle single-handedly is a mere *fable*. [non-count] He combines fact and *fable* to make a more interesting story.

fa-bled /'feɪbəld/ *adj*

1 : told about in old stories • a *fabled* [=legendary] underwater city

2 [more ~; most ~] : widely known : FAMOUS • She served us some of her *fabled* cherry pie.

fab-ric /'fæbrɪk/ *noun, pl -rics*

1 : woven or knitted material : CLOTH [noncount] The curtains are made of expensive *fabric*. • a *fabric* store [count] scarves made of woven *fabrics*

2 [singular] : the basic structure of something • the *fabric* of society • the *fabric* of the community

fab-ri-cate /'fæbrɪ,keɪt/ *verb -cates; -cat-ed; -cat-ing* [+obj]

1 : to make or build (something) • Only the largest parts were *fabricated* at the factory. • Their plan is to *fabricate* the house out of synthetic materials.

2 : to create or make up (something, such as a story) in order to trick people • a story *fabricated* to sell magazines • She was accused of *fabricating* data. • *fabricated* evidence

— **fab-ri-ca-tion** /'fæbrɪ'keɪʃən/ *noun, pl -tions* [non-count] the *fabrication* of parts • the *fabrication* of evidence [count] his *fabrications* [=lies] about his military service • The story was a total/complete *fabrication*. — **fab-ri-ca-tor** /'fæbrɪ,keɪtə/ *noun, pl -tors* [count]

fabric softener *noun, pl ~ -ers* [count, noncount] : a product that is used to make clothes softer when they are washed or dried in a machine — called also (Brit) *conditioner*

fab·u·lous /'fæbjələs/ *adj*

1 [more ~; most ~] **a** : very good • I had a *fabulous* time. • The weather has been *fabulous*. **b** : very large in amount or size • *fabulous* wealth/ riches • He is making *fabulous* amounts of money.

2 *literary* : not real • *fabulous* beasts : told about in a story • a *fabulous* [=mythical] creature

— **fab·u·lous·ly** *adv* • *fabulously* rich • a *fabulously* successful executive — **fab·u·lous·ness** *noun* [noncount]

fa·cade or **fa·çade** /fə'sɑ:d/ *noun*, *pl* -cades or -çades [count]

1 : the front of a building • the *facade* of the bank • the windowless *façade* of the skyscraper • a brick *facade*

2 : a way of behaving or appearing that gives other people a false idea of your true feelings or situation • They were trying to preserve the *facade* of a happy marriage. • I could sense the hostility lurking behind her polite *facade*.

¹face /'feɪs/ *noun*, *pl* faces [count]

1 : the front part of the head that has the eyes, nose, and mouth on it • He has a round *face*. • He punched me (right) in the *face*. • His *face* is familiar but I can't remember his name. • I'll never forget the look on her *face*. • She slapped him in the *face*. = She slapped his *face*. • He fell flat on his *face*. • a bearded/freckled/tanned *face* • a fresh/youthful *face* • *face* cream • *face* powder • Her *face* lit up [=she looked pleased and happy] when she saw him. • Her *face* fell [=she looked unhappy] when I told her the bad news. • I don't know how he can *show his face* around here. [=how he can stand being seen here] • Why the *long face*? [=why do you look so unhappy?] • He was *wearing a silly grin/smile on his face*. [=he was grinning/smiling in a silly way] • She angrily told him to *wipe that smile off his face*. [=to stop smiling] • Her guilt was *written all over her face*. [=the expression on her face showed her guilt very clearly] • The answer to the problem was *staring me in the face* all along. [=the answer was obvious but I did not see it]

2 : a facial expression • a happy/sad *face* • a friendly/smiling *face* • She tried to *put on a brave face* [=she tried to appear brave or calm] despite the pain of the injury. • It was hard to *keep a straight face*. [=it was hard not to laugh] • You *should have seen his face* when we shouted "Surprise!" [=he had a shocked, surprised, etc., look on his face] — see also **POKER FACE**

3 : **PERSON** • I didn't recognize any of the *faces* around the table. • There are lots of new *faces* around the office. • It's good to see a *familiar face*. [=a person that I know]

4 **a** : the way something appears when it is first seen or thought about — usually singular • *On the face of it*, her proposal seems ridiculous. [=when you first hear about her proposal it seems ridiculous, although it may not be ridiculous when you learn more about it] • Her proposal seems ridiculous *on its face*. **b** : the way something is seen or thought of by people — usually singular • If she wins the election it will change the *face* of American politics. ♦ To *put a brave/good/positive face on* something or to *put the best face on* something is to talk about it or describe it in a way that makes it seem as good as possible. • She can *put a positive face on* the worst situations. • He was disappointed by the results of the election, but tried to *put the best face on* the situation by saying he had come closer to winning than people expected.

5 **a** : a front or outer surface of something • the *face* of a cliff = a cliff *face* • the *face* of a building • the *face* of a golf club • a species that has vanished from *the face of the earth* [=a species that is no longer found anywhere in the world] • If you ask me, he's the biggest fool *on the face of the earth*. [=in the world] **b** : a surface or side that is marked or prepared in some way • the *face* of a document **c** : a side of a coin • Which *face* will the coin land on—heads or tails? **d** : the part of a clock or watch that shows the time • a clock *face* **e** *mathematics* : any one of the flat surfaces of a solid shape • A cube is a solid with six square *faces*.

a slap in the face see ²SLAP

as plain as the nose on your face see ¹NOSE

blue in the face see ¹BLUE

cross someone's face see ²CROSS

cut off your nose to spite your face see ¹NOSE

egg on your face see ¹EGG

face to face **1** — used to describe a situation in which two people are together and looking at each other • They were sitting *face to face*. • I've spoken with him on the phone but I've never met him *face to face*. [=I've never met him] • We've never had a *face-to-face* meeting. — often + *with* • I've never been *face to face with* him before. **2** : very close

to something dangerous, difficult, etc. — + *with* • The actors were *face to face with* real flames. • She came *face to face with* death. [=she nearly died] • When she visited the school she was brought *face to face with* the problems encountered by teachers every day.

fly in the face of see ¹FLY

game face ♦ In informal U.S. English, if you are *wearing your game face* or *have your game face on*, you have a serious look on your face which shows that you are ready to compete in a game, sport, competition, etc. • He was *wearing his game face* in the finals.

get out of someone's face *US, informal* : to go away and stop bothering someone : to leave someone alone • *Get out of my face!* • Hey, *get out of your sister's face* and go play somewhere else!

in someone's face **1** : in a direct way that shows anger or disrespect for someone • She laughed *in his face*. • He slammed the door *in my face*. **2** ♦ In informal U.S. English, if you *are/get in someone's face*, you are criticizing or shouting at someone in a very direct and angry way. • The coach *got in my face* because I was late for practice. — see also **IN-YOUR-FACE**

in the face of : while in a situation in which you have to deal with (something or someone that is dangerous, difficult, etc.) • Their defeat seemed certain *in the face of* such a powerful opponent. • She showed great courage *in the face of* danger. [=she showed great courage when she was faced with danger] • She succeeded *in the face of* [=despite] great difficulties.

just another face in the crowd see ²CROWD

laugh on the other side of your face see ¹LAUGH

lose face : to cause other people to have less respect for you : to lose other people's respect • She was afraid that she would *lose face* if she admitted her mistake.

make a face or chiefly *Brit* **pull a face** **1** : to make a facial expression that shows dislike or disgust • He *made a face* when I mentioned her name. **2** : to make a silly or amusing facial expression • She tried to get me to laugh by *making a face* when I looked at her. • He was entertaining the children by *making* (funny) *faces*.

pretty face see ¹PRETTY

put a human face on see ¹HUMAN

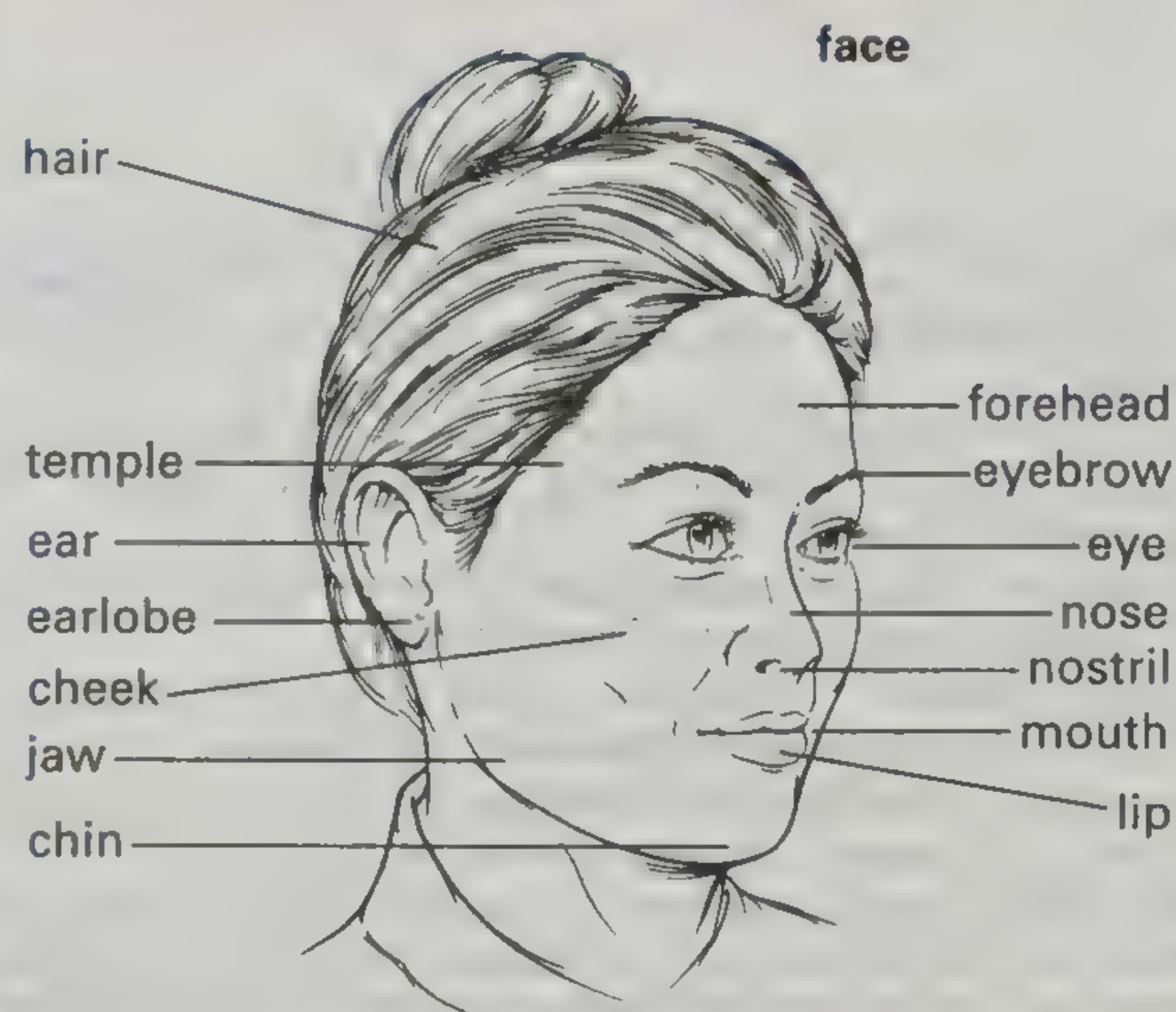
save face : to avoid having other people lose respect for you • He tried to *save face* by working overtime.

shut your face see ¹SHUT

stare (someone) in the face see ¹STARE

stuff your face see ²STUFF

to someone's face : directly to someone • If you have something to say about me, you should say it *to my face*. [=say it directly to me rather than to someone else]

**²face** *verb* fac·es; faced; fac·ing

1 **a** : to stand or sit with your face and body turned toward (something or someone) [+ *obj*] The teacher *faced* the class. • She turned around to *face* the window. • He sat *facing* the wall. [*no obj*] Turn and *face* to the east. **b** : to have the front part toward (something) [+ *obj*] The house *faces* the park. • The living room *faces* the afternoon sun. [*no obj*] My shoe was lying in the corner with its sole *facing* upward. • The flower opens *facing* skyward. **c** : to be on the page that is opposite to (another page) [+ *obj*] Look at the illustration that *faces* page 132. = Look at the illustration *facing* page

132. [no obj] Look at the illustration on the *facing* page.

2 [+ obj] **a** : to deal with (something bad or unpleasant) in a direct way • Only by *facing* your problems can you hope to overcome them. • You must stand and *face* the danger. • He'll have to *face* the consequences of his decision. **b** : to admit that (something) is true or real • It was time to *face* the truth. • We have to *face* the possibility that the economy will get worse before it gets better. • We have to *face* reality.

3 [+ obj] **a** : to have (something bad or unpleasant) as a problem or possibility : to be confronted by (something) • This is not the first time she has *faced* adversity. • Because of the drought, thousands of people are now *facing* starvation. • He finds himself *facing* criminal charges for his role in the conspiracy. • She *faced* a difficult choice. [=she had to make a difficult choice] **b** : to be a problem for (someone) : to require the attention of (someone) • There were many important questions *facing* them. • We can't ignore the problems that *face* us. **c** : to force (someone) to see and deal with something in a direct way • He couldn't deny his involvement when the police *faced* [=confronted] him with the evidence. — usually used as (be) *faced* • He *was faced* with the evidence. • We *are faced* with two unpleasant options. • We can't ignore the problems that we *are faced* with.

4 [+ obj] **a** : to meet with (someone) despite shame, fear, or embarrassment • I don't know if I can *face* him again after treating him so badly. **b** : to meet (someone) in a competition : to compete or fight against (someone) • The team has to *face* a tough opponent in its next game. • It was the first time that these two fighters had *faced* each other in the ring. • The pitcher struck out the first three batters he *faced*.

5 [+ obj] : to cover the front or the surface of (something) • They *faced* the building with marble. • a chimney *faced* with red brick • a brick-*faced* chimney

face facts or face the fact(s) : to admit that something is true • The time has come to *face the fact* that the government's policies aren't working. • The time has come to *face the facts* and admit that the government's policies aren't working. • Let's *face facts*—our plan isn't working.

face off [phrasal verb] chiefly US : to be involved or become involved in a conflict, dispute, or competition • The protesters were *facing off* with/against the police. • They *faced off* in a nationally televised debate. • two teams that *faced off* in the play-offs last year — see also FACE-OFF

face the music : to accept and deal with the unpleasant result of something you have said or done • He knows that he'll be criticized for making a bad decision, and he's ready to *face the music*.

face up to [phrasal verb] **face up to (something)** : to deal with (something bad or unpleasant) in a direct way • She has to *face up to* [=face] her problems now, or else they'll only get worse. • We need to *face up to* our fears.

(let's) **face it** — used to say that something is true and cannot be denied • *Face it*, a lot of people don't even bother to vote. • *Let's face it*, most of us don't get enough exercise.

face card noun, pl ~ cards [count] : a king, queen, or jack in a deck of cards — called also (chiefly Brit) *court card*, (Brit) *picture card*

face-cloth /'feɪs,kləʊθ/ noun, pl -cloths [count] : WASH-CLOTH

-faced /,feɪst/ combining form

1 : having a particular kind of face • a fresh-*faced* girl • freckle-*faced* [=having a face with many freckles]

2 : having a particular kind of surface or front • a brick-*faced* house

face-down /,feɪs'daʊn/ adv : with the face down • The cards were dealt *face-down*. • lying/floating *face-down* • He fell *face-down* in the sand.

face-less /'feɪsləs/ adj, usually disapproving

1 : not having any unusual and interesting qualities • the *faceless* masses • a *faceless* corporation

2 : not identified : ANONYMOUS • a decision made by *faceless* bureaucrats • a *faceless* accuser

face-lift /'feɪs,lɪft/ noun, pl -lifts [count]

1 : surgery to make a person's face look younger (such as by removing wrinkles) • She's planning to get a *face-lift*.

2 : changes made to something to make it more attractive or modern • The hotel was given a million-dollar *face-lift*. • The new landscaping has given the park a much-needed *face-lift*.

face mask noun, pl ~ masks [count] : a mask or protective covering that goes over your face or part of your face • gas delivered to the patient via *face mask* • (American football) The lineman grabbed the running back's *face mask*.

face-off /'feɪs,ɑːf/ noun, pl -offs [count]

1 *ice hockey* : a method of beginning play by dropping the puck between two players • a *face-off* at center ice

2 chiefly US : a meeting of opponents : a conflict or fight • a legal *face-off* • a diplomatic *face-off* between Communist and non-Communist nations — see also *face off* at ²FACE

face-sav-ing /'feɪs,servɪŋ/ adj, always used before a noun : done to keep someone from looking foolish • a *face-saving* gesture • They needed a *face-saving* way out of the confrontation. — see also *save face* at ¹FACE

fac-et /'fæsət/ noun, pl -ets [count]

1 : a part or element of something • Each *facet* of the problem requires careful attention. • the different *facets* of our culture • Which *facet* of his character is most appealing?

2 : a small, flat surface on a jewel • the *facets* of a diamond

— **fac-et-ed** /'fæsətəd/ adj • a *faceted* jewel — see also MULTIFACETED

face time noun [noncount] US, informal

1 : time spent meeting with someone • He hoped to get more *face time* with the president.

2 : time spent at the place where you work especially before or after normal working hours • Some bosses think lots of *face time* is a sign of loyalty to the company.

3 : the amount of time someone spends appearing on television • a celebrity who has been getting a lot of *face time*

fa-ce-tious /fə'siːʃəs/ adj [more ~; most ~] — used to describe speech that is meant to be funny but that is usually regarded as annoying, silly, or not proper • I was just being *facetious*. • a *facetious* remark

— **fa-ce-tious-ly** adv • She was speaking *facetiously*. — **fa-ce-tious-ness** noun [noncount]

face-up /'feɪs'ʌp/ adv : with the face up • The cards were dealt *face-up*. • lying/floating *face-up*

face value noun, pl ~ values [count] : the value that is printed or shown on something (such as a coin or bill) • We paid \$100 for tickets that had a *face value* of \$50.

at face value 1 : for the price that is printed on something • We bought the tickets *at face value*. 2 ♦ Something that is *taken/accepted at face value* is regarded as true or genuine without being questioned or doubted. • After all his lying, nothing he says now should be *taken at face value*. [=accepted as true]

facia variant spelling of FASCIA 3

¹**fa-cial** /'feɪʃəl/ adj : of or relating to a person's face • *facial* expressions • *facial* features • *facial* hair

²**facial** noun, pl -cials [count] : a beauty treatment to make a person's face look and feel better • a deep-cleaning *facial*

facie see PRIMA FACIE

fac-ile /'fæsəl, Brit 'fæsail/ adj [more ~; most ~] formal

1 *disapproving* : too simple : not showing enough thought or effort • a *facile* explanation • This problem needs more than just a *facile* solution.

2 *always used before a noun, disapproving* : done or achieved in a way that is too easy • a *facile* [=effortless] victory

3 *always used before a noun, chiefly US, approving* : working, moving, or performing well and very easily • He is a wonderfully *facile* writer.

— **fac-ile-ly** adv

fa-cil-i-tate /fə'sɪlə,teɪt/ verb -tates; -tat-ed; -tat-ing [+ obj] formal

1 : to make (something) easier : to help cause (something) • Cutting taxes may *facilitate* economic recovery. • Her rise to power was *facilitated* by her influential friends.

2 : to help (something) run more smoothly and effectively • The moderator's role is to *facilitate* the discussion by asking appropriate questions.

— **fa-cil-i-ta-tion** /fə'sɪlə'teɪʃən/ noun [noncount] • the *facilitation* of discussion — **fa-cil-i-ta-tor** /fə'sɪlə,teɪtə/ noun, pl -tors [count] • the *facilitator* of a discussion

fa-cil-i-ty /fə'sɪləti/ noun, pl -ties

1 a [count] : something (such as a building or large piece of equipment) that is built for a specific purpose • a large manufacturing *facility* • a new sewage-treatment *facility* • The injured child was rushed to a *medical facility*. [=a hospital] • a *correctional facility* [=a prison] **b** [count] : something that makes an action, operation, or activity easier — usually plural • The resort offers a wide range of *facilities* for young and old alike. **c facilities** [plural] informal : BATHROOM • The *facilities* are at the end of the corridor.

2 : skill and ease in doing something [singular] He had a great *facility* for writing. [noncount] He had great *facility* with words. • She handled the crisis with *facility*.

fac·ing /'feɪsɪŋ/ *noun*, *pl* **-ings** : a layer of material that is placed on the surface or front of something to improve its appearance [*noncount*] a house with brick *facing* [*count*] ornamental window *facings* • a suit with red *facings* at the collar and the cuffs

fac·sim·i·le /fæk'sɪməli/ *noun*, *pl* **-les** [*count*]

1 : an exact copy • A *facsimile* of the world's first computer was exhibited in the museum.

2 *formal* : ¹FAX 1

reasonable facsimile ✧ A *reasonable facsimile* is a copy that is not exact but is fairly close. • The house is a *reasonable facsimile* of his original home. This phrase is sometimes used in a joking way. • I can speak French, or at least a *reasonable facsimile* of French. [=I can speak French but not very well]

fact /'fækt/ *noun*, *pl* **facts**

1 [*count*] : something that truly exists or happens : something that has actual existence • Rapid electronic communication is now a *fact*. — often used in the phrase *the fact that* It's hard to accept *the fact that* she's gone. [=it's hard to accept that she's gone] • What they're proposing is impractical, apart from *the fact that* it's also illegal. • In spite of *the fact that* he was sick [=although he was sick], I went to visit him.

2 : a true piece of information [*count*] The book is filled with interesting *facts* and figures. • Those are the (cold) hard *facts* of the case. • I *know for a fact* that he did it. [=I am sure that he did it] • He did it, and *that's a fact*. • There's no doubt that he did it. *The facts speak for themselves* [=the facts make it clear that he did it] [*noncount*] It can sometimes be hard to separate *fact from fiction* [=to know what is true and what is false]

after the fact 1 *law* : after a crime has been committed • She was charged with being an *accessory after the fact* [=she was charged with helping someone who had committed a crime after the crime was committed] 2 : after something has happened : AFTERWARD • They informed me of their decision only *after the fact*. [=after they had already made their decision]

as a matter of fact — used to stress the truth of a statement • “Do you know her personally?” “*As a matter of fact*, I do.”

bend (the) facts see ¹BEND

in fact 1 : in truth — used to stress that a statement is true although it may be surprising or unlikely • painters who are *in fact* anything but unsophisticated • He looks younger, but he is *in* (actual) *fact* almost 60 years old. • They know each other; *in fact*, they're close friends. = They know each other; they're close friends, *in fact*. 2 *also in point of fact* — used to introduce a true statement which shows that another statement is not true or accurate • He claims that he supported the bill, but *in fact* he voted against it. [=the truth is that he voted against it] • She says that she doesn't know him, but *in point of fact* they have been seen together many times.

is that a fact? — used to respond to a statement that is thought to be surprising or unlikely • “He looks much younger, but he's actually almost 60 years old.” “*Is that a fact?*” [=I am surprised he is 60 years old] • “A lot of people agree with me.” “*Is that a fact?*” [=I doubt that a lot of people agree with you]

the fact is/remains — used to stress that a statement is true and that its truth is not affected or changed by a previous statement • He may not have meant it, but *the fact remains* that he committed a crime. • The company has struggled recently, but *the fact is* that they are still making a profit.

the fact of the matter see ¹MATTER

fact-finding *adj*, *always used before a noun* : done or created in order to learn the facts that relate to a particular situation or event • a *fact-finding* mission • a *fact-finding* panel

fac·tion /'fæksjən/ *noun*, *pl* **-tions** [*count*] : a group within a larger group that has different ideas and opinions than the rest of the group • The committee soon split into *factions*. • warring *factions*

— **fac·tion·al** /'fæksjənəl/ *adj* • *factional* strife/violence/maneuvering — **fac·tion·al·ism** /'fæksjənə'lɪzəm/ *noun* [*noncount*] • a political party split by *factionalism* and infighting

fact of life *noun*, *pl* **facts of life**

1 [*count*] : something that exists and that cannot be changed or ignored • For new parents, lack of sleep is just a *fact of life*.

2 *the facts of life* : the facts about sex that are told to children • He explained *the facts of life* to his son.

fac·toid /'fæktɔɪd/ *noun*, *pl* **-toids** [*count*] : a brief and usu-

ally unimportant *fact* • The book is really just a collection of interesting *factoids*.

¹fac·tor /'fæktə/ *noun*, *pl* **-tors** [*count*]

1 : something that helps produce or influence a result : one of the things that cause something to happen • There were several *factors* contributing to their recent decline. • Poor planning was a major *factor* in the company's failure. • Cost was the *decisive/deciding/determining factor* in their decision. [=the most important reason for their decision]

2 *a mathematics* : a number that evenly divides a larger number • 6, 4, 3, and 2 are *factors* of 12. *b* : an amount by which another amount is multiplied or divided • Costs increased/decreased by a *factor* of 10. [=costs were 10 times higher/lower than they had been]

— see also RH FACTOR, RISK FACTOR

²factor *verb* **-tors; -tored; -tor-ing** [+ *obj*]

1 : to consider or include (something) in making a judgment or calculation — + *in* or *into* • In doing our calculations we need to *factor in* inflation. • We need to *factor* inflation *into* our calculations.

2 : to not consider or include (something) in making a judgment or calculation — + *out* • Even after *factoring out* inflation, the costs have increased greatly.

fac·to·ry /'fæktəri/ *noun*, *pl* **-ries** [*count*] : a building or group of buildings where products are made • an automobile *factory* • She got a job in/at the *factory*. — often used before another noun • *factory* workers/gates — often used figuratively • The college was well-known as a football *factory*. [=a school known more for its football teams and players than for its students and teachers] • the Hollywood studios that were the dream *factories* of the American film industry

factory floor *noun*

the factory floor : the part of a factory where products are made • There's talk *on the factory floor* [=among the ordinary workers in the factory] about a possible strike.

fac·to·tum /fæk'toutəm/ *noun*, *pl* **-tums** [*count*] *formal* : a person whose job involves doing many different types of work • He was the office *factotum*.

fac·tu·al /'fæktʃwəl/ *adj*

1 [*more ~; most ~*] : limited to, involving, or based on facts • *factual* knowledge/information • She tried to separate what is *factual* [=true, real] from what is not. • That statement is not *factual*. • a report filled with *factual errors*

2 : of or relating to facts • the *factual* aspects of the case — **fac·tu·al·ly** *adv* • a *factually* incorrect statement

fac·ul·ty /'fækəlti/ *noun*, *pl* **-ties**

1 *a* [*noncount*] : the group of teachers in a school or college • She's a member of the Harvard *faculty*. — often used before another noun • *faculty* members • a *faculty* meeting *b* *facul·ty* [*plural*] *US* : faculty members or teachers • The school hired more *faculty*. • a meeting with students and *faculty*

2 *a* [*count*] : one of the powers of your mind or body • the *faculty* of hearing/speech • It was sad to see that his *mental faculties* [=his ability to think clearly] had begun to fail. • She needs to learn to develop her *critical faculties* [=her ability to make judgments about what is good or true] *b* [*singular*] : a natural talent for doing something • She has a *faculty* for making friends.

3 [*count*] : a department in a college or university • The *Faculty* of Arts and Sciences • the *Faculty* of Law

fad /'fæd/ *noun*, *pl* **fads** [*count*] : something (such as an interest or fashion) that is very popular for a short time • She's always interested in the latest *fads*. • a *fad* diet

— **fad·dish** /'fædɪʃ/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] • a *faddish* psychological treatment

fad·dist /'fædɪst/ *noun*, *pl* **-dists** [*count*] : a person who becomes very interested or enthusiastic about different things for a short time : a person who becomes involved in fads • a food *faddist* [=someone who becomes very enthusiastic about different types of food as they become popular]

¹fade /'feɪd/ *verb* **fades; fad·ed; fad·ing**

1 [*no obj*] *a* : to lose strength or freshness • The flowers were *fading* in the vase. : to become weaker • the *fading* light of late afternoon • She was *fading* fast from the effects of the pneumonia. • Her hearing gradually *faded* (away) as she grew older. • His voice *faded* off into a whisper. = His voice *faded* to a whisper. *b* : to disappear gradually • We watched the ship gradually *fade* from view as it sailed away. • The smile *faded* from his face. • Hopes for a quick end of the crisis are *fading* fast. • Their reasons for leaving have *faded* from memory. • He's trying to recapture the *faded* glory of his youth. • The band's popularity has *faded* in recent years.

2 : to become less bright : to lose color [*no obj*] The fabric will *fade* unless you protect it from the sunlight. • The colors of the photograph have *faded* with time. [*+ obj*] Exposure to the elements has *faded* the car's finish. • blue jeans *faded* by wear • She was wearing *faded* blue jeans.

3 [*no obj*] : to change gradually in loudness, strength, or appearance — used to describe a radio signal, a picture in a movie, etc. • As the hero rides into the sunset, the screen *fades to black* [=the image gradually changes until the screen is completely black] — often + *in* or *out* • One scene *fades out* as the next *fades in*. • The radio signal *faded out* as we got further from the station. • The sound of her voice gradually *faded out*.

²fade *noun, pl fades* [*count*] : a gradual change from one picture to another in a movie or television program • The movie ends with a *fade to black*.

fade-in /'feɪd,ɪn/ *noun, pl -ins* [*count*] : the gradual appearance of an image at the beginning of a scene in a movie or television program • The film begins with a *fade-in* of a girl's head on a pillow.

fade-out /'feɪd,aʊt/ *noun, pl -outs* [*count*] : the gradual disappearance of an image at the end of a scene in a movie or television program • The movie ends with a slow *fade-out* to a black screen.

fae·ces chiefly Brit spelling of FECES

¹fag /'fæg/ *noun, pl fags* [*count*] US, informal + offensive : a homosexual man — compare ²FAG

²fag *noun, pl fags* [*count*] Brit, informal : CIGARETTE — compare ¹FAG

fag end *noun, pl ~ ends* [*count*] Brit, informal : the last and usually least appealing or interesting part of something • He came in right at the *fag end* [=tail end] of the meeting.

fagged /'fægd/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] Brit, informal : very tired • He was too *fagged* [=exhausted] even to eat.

fag·got /'fæɡət/ *noun, pl -gots* [*count*] US, informal + offensive : a homosexual man

fah chiefly Brit spelling of FA

Fahr·en·heit /'ferən,hart/ *adj* : relating to or having a scale for measuring temperature on which the boiling point of water is at 212 degrees above zero and the freezing point is at 32 degrees above zero • the *Fahrenheit* scale • It was 70 degrees *Fahrenheit* outside. — abbr. *F*; compare CELSIUS

¹fail /'feɪl/ *verb fails; failed; fail·ing*

1 a : to not succeed : to end without success [*no obj*] He *failed* in his first attempt but succeeded in his second attempt. • The rebellion *failed* completely. • an experiment that *failed* = a *failed* experiment • a marriage that is *failing* = a *failing* marriage • The drought caused the crops to *fail*. [=the crops did not grow successfully because of the drought] • He only bothers to read the directions *if/when all else fails* [=if/when everything else he has attempted has failed] [*+ obj*] — followed by *to + verb* • She *failed to finish* the race. • He *failed to achieve* all that he hoped to achieve. **b** [*no obj*] : to not succeed as a business : to become bankrupt • His first company *failed*, but his second company succeeded. • The bank *failed*. • a *failed* bank

2 a [*+ obj*] : to not do (something that you should do or are expected to do) — followed by *to + verb* • He *failed to act* on the advice of his staff. [=he should have acted on their advice but he didn't] • He *failed to mention* his new girlfriend when he spoke to his parents. **b** : to not do something [*+ obj*] — followed by *to + verb* • I turned on the switch but the light *failed to go on*. • It never *fails to surprise* me that people can be so gullible. [=I am always surprised that people can be so gullible] • Her public appearances rarely *fail to attract* huge crowds. [=her public appearances almost always attract huge crowds] • It never *fails to rain* [=it always rains] when I plan to take a day off. • I *fail to see/understand* [=I don't see/understand] why we need to change the current system. [=I don't think we need to change it] [*no obj*] *It never fails* I plan to take a day off, and it rains. [=whenever I plan to take a day off, it rains]

3 [*+ obj*] : to not do or provide something that is needed by (someone) • He felt that he had *failed* her when she needed him most. • The government has *failed* the voters. • In the face of continued threats, his *courage failed him* [=he lost courage, he became afraid] • He wanted to express his appreciation for all they had done, but *words failed him* [=he did not know what to say]

4 a : to be unsuccessful in passing (an examination, a course of study, etc.) [*+ obj*] He *failed* the test/exam. • He *failed* chemistry. [*no obj*] He *failed* in chemistry. • *Failing* students

must repeat the course. **b** [*+ obj*] : to decide that (someone) has not passed an examination or course of study • The teacher *failed* several students. • He received a *failing grade/mark* in chemistry. [=his teacher gave him a grade/mark that showed he failed chemistry]

5 [*no obj*] **a** : to stop working • The power *failed*. • The plane's engine *failed*, forcing an emergency landing. • His kidneys *failed*. **b** : to lose strength : to become weak or weaker • Her health/eyesight is starting to *fail*. • Her children are concerned about her *failing* health/eyesight.

²fail *noun*

without fail **1** — used to stress that something always happens • Every day, *without fail*, he has toast and coffee for breakfast. **2** — used to stress that something will definitely happen • She promised that she would be there *without fail*. [=she would definitely be there]

¹fail·ing /'feɪlɪŋ/ *noun, pl -ings* [*count*] : a weakness or problem in a person's character, behavior, or ability • He has some minor *failings*.

²failing *prep, formal* : in the absence of (something) : WITHOUT • *Failing* progress in the peace process, war seems likely. • We could try to persuade them by arguing or, *failing that* [=if that does not happen or succeed], we could threaten to cancel the deal.

fail-safe /'feɪl,sɜːf/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] : certain not to fail • Of course, no system is entirely *fail-safe*. • He was looking for a *fail-safe* source of money. • a *fail-safe* device/mechanism [=a device/mechanism that will not break]

fail·ure /'feɪljə/ *noun, pl -ures*

1 : the act or result of failing: such as **a** : a lack of success in some effort [*count*] He became discouraged by his repeated *failures* in business. [*noncount*] He was often crippled by his fear of *failure*. • He was trying to rescue the business from *failure*. [=bankruptcy] — opposite SUCCESS **b** : a situation or occurrence in which something does not work as it should [*count*] The storm caused power *failures* [=outages] in many parts of the city. • a *failure* [=lapse] of memory [*noncount*] The accident was caused by engine *failure*. • The patient was suffering from heart/kidney *failure*. **c** : an occurrence in which someone does not do something that should be done — followed by *to + verb* [*count*] The accident was caused by a *failure to use* proper procedures. [*noncount*] She was criticized for *failure to follow* directions. **d** : an occurrence in which crops do not grow and produce food in the normal way [*noncount*] The drought caused crop *failure*. [*count*] a serious crop *failure*

2 [*count*] : a person or thing that has failed • He felt like a *failure* when he wasn't accepted into law school. • The scheme was a complete *failure*. — opposite SUCCESS

¹faint /'feɪnt/ *adj faint·er; -est*

1 : not clearly seen, heard, tasted, felt, etc. • We heard a *faint* noise. • a *faint* smell/odor/aroma • the *faint* glow of a distant light • There was a *faint* smile on her lips. • a *faint* [=weak] radio signal

2 : very slight or small • There's just a *faint* chance/possibility that the weather will improve by tomorrow. • a *faint* hope • a *faint* reminder of their former greatness • He *didn't have the faintest idea/notion* what she was talking about. [=he did not know what she was talking about] • She showed *not the faintest interest* in him. [=she showed no interest at all in him]

3 *not used before a noun* : weak and dizzy • I'd better lie down; I feel *faint*. • She felt *faint* from/with hunger.

damn with faint praise see ²DAMN

faint of heart : lacking the courage to face something difficult or dangerous — usually used in the phrase *not for the faint of heart* • This is a difficult climb that is *not for the faint of heart*. — see also FAINTHEARTED

— **faint·ly** *adv* • He was smiling *faintly*. • The room still smelled *faintly* of perfume. • She looked *faintly* [=somewhat, slightly] familiar. • He was *faintly* [=barely] aware of her presence. — **faint·ness** *noun* [*noncount*] • the *faintness* of distant stars

²faint *verb faints; faint·ed; faint·ing* [*no obj*] : to suddenly become unconscious • He always *faints* at the sight of blood. • She almost *fainted* from the pain. • She suffers from *fainting* spells.

faint·heart·ed /'feɪnt'hɑːtəd/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] : feeling or showing a lack of courage • *fainthearted* people • She gave him a *fainthearted* response. — usually used in the phrase *not for the fainthearted* • a dangerous job that is *not for the fainthearted* • a frightening movie that is *not for the*

fainthearted — see also *faint of heart* at ¹FAINT

— **faint-heart-ed-ly** *adv*

¹**fair** /'feə/ *adj* **fair-er; -est**

1 : agreeing with what is thought to be right or acceptable • We received *fair* treatment. • *fair* elections • a *fair* fight • a *fair* bargain/deal/trade • I'm just trying to get a *fair* price for the house. [=I'm not trying to get more money for the house than most people think is right] • That's a *fair* question, and it deserves an honest reply. • The workers claim that they are not being paid *fair wages*. [=they are being paid less than they should be paid] • It's *only fair* [=it is the right thing] to tell him the truth. • I washed the dishes yesterday, so it's *only fair* (that) you to do them today. • He gets his *fair share* of attention too. [=he gets a reasonable amount of attention] • She's had more than her *fair share* of trouble. [=she has had a lot of trouble]

2 : treating people in a way that does not favor some over others • He is known as a very *fair* man. • I try to be *fair* to/with my children. • He claims that the competition wasn't *fair*. • It's not *fair* that she gets to leave early and I don't. • Sometimes life isn't *fair*. • a *fair* and impartial jury • a bargain/deal/trade that is *fair* to/for everyone • All she wants is a *fair chance*. [=the same chance everyone else gets]

3 : not too harsh or critical • "What a bad movie!" "*Be fair!* Parts of it are actually pretty funny." • I can't say I liked the movie, but, *to be fair*, parts of it are pretty funny. • She did poorly on the test, but, *to be fair*, so did a lot of other people.

4 a : not very good or very bad : of average or acceptable quality • Her work has been *fair* to good. • The quality of her work has been only *fair*. • I think our waiter did a *fair* job. • The patient has been upgraded from serious to *fair* condition. • The food was *fair to middling*. [=just average; not especially good] **b** *approving* : reasonably good : good although usually not excellent • The team has a *fair* [=pretty good] chance of winning the championship this year. • He does a pretty *fair* [=good] imitation of the President. • He was able to give us a *fair* idea of the problems involved. • It's a *fair* bet that the weather will improve soon. • "I'm guessing that he's about 50 years old." "That's a *fair* guess, but he's actually almost 60." **c** *always used before a noun* : reasonably large — used to describe an amount or size that is not small although it is also not extremely large • There were a *fair* number of new participants at the convention. • Researchers now know a *fair* amount about the earliest humans. • He lives a *fair* distance from here.

5 : not stormy or cloudy • *fair* skies • *fair* weather

6 *of a person's hair, skin, etc.* : having a light color • *fair* hair/skin • a person of *fair* complexion • a *fair*-skinned person — opposite **DARK**

7 *literary + old-fashioned* : attractive or pleasing to look at • We're happy to welcome you to our *fair* [=lovely] city. • a *fair* maid/maiden • Who's the *fairest* of them all?

8 *baseball* : in the area between the foul lines • The ball was caught in *fair* territory. ♦ A *fair ball* is a batted ball that lands in the area between the foul lines. — compare **FOUL**

a *fair bit* see ¹BIT

a *fair shake* see ²SHAKE

all's fair in love and war — used to describe a situation in which people do not follow the usual rules of behavior and do things that are normally considered unfair • Sure, it was underhanded to steal his customers, but *all's fair in love and war*.

bid fair see ¹BID

fair and square : in an honest and fair manner • He won the election *fair and square*.

fair crack of the whip see ²CRACK

fair enough informal — used to say that something is reasonable or fair • "I'll wash the dishes today, and you can wash them tomorrow." "*Fair enough.*" • "He needs more time." "*Fair enough*, but we can't wait too much longer."

fair's fair informal — used to say that something was done or should be done because it is fair • *Fair's fair*: I washed the dishes yesterday, so it's your turn to do them today.

fair to say ♦ A comment that is *fair to say* is reasonable and is not expected to cause argument. • The key concept in this book, I think it is *fair to say*, is freedom. • She's not entirely to blame, but it's (only) *fair to say* that she handled the situation badly.

fair warning : enough warning to be able to avoid something bad • I'm giving you *fair warning* that you had better not discuss politics at dinner tonight.

it's a fair cop see ¹COP

— **fair** *adv* • He claims that his opponent wasn't *playing fair*.

[=wasn't playing according to the rules] — **fair-ness** *noun* [*noncount*] • She questioned the *fairness* of the decision. • In the interest of *fairness*, let's not mention any names. • She did poorly, but *in all fairness* [=to be fair to her], she was tired.

²**fair** *noun, pl fairs* [*count*]

1 : a large public event at which there are various kinds of competitions, games, rides, and entertainment; *especially, US* : such an event at which farm products and farm animals are shown and judged • She showed her horse at the annual county/state *fair*.

2 : an event at which many people gather to buy things or to get information about a product or activity • a book *fair* • a craft *fair* • a *job fair* [=an event where employers offer information about their companies to people who are looking for jobs]

3 : an event at which different things (such as crafts or food) are sold usually for charity • The church is having a *fair* to raise money for the new school.

fair game *noun* [*noncount*] : someone or something that can be chased, attacked, or criticized • Celebrities are *fair game* for the tabloids. • The tourists were *fair game* for the pickpockets. • Even her retirement savings were *fair game* for her creditors.

fair-ground /'feəgraʊnd/ *noun, pl -grounds* [*count*] : an outdoor area where fairs, circuses, and exhibitions are held

fair-haired /'feə'heəd/ *adj*

1 : having light or blond hair • a *fair-haired* child

2 *chiefly US* : especially well-liked or admired — usually used in the phrase *fair-haired boy* • an athlete who was once the fans' *fair-haired boy*

fair-ly /'feəli/ *adv* [*more ~; most ~*]

1 : to some degree or extent but not very or extremely : to a reasonable or moderate extent • a *fairly* easy job • It's still *fairly* early. • a *fairly* simple procedure • It's a *fairly* common disease.

2 : in a way that is right or proper : in a fair way • She treats everyone *fairly*. • I told the story as *fairly* as possible. • He reports *fairly* on the issues. • He beat me *fairly and squarely*.

3 — used for emphasis before a verb that is being used figuratively • The situation *fairly* screamed for someone to intervene.

4 *literary + old-fashioned* : in a favorable or pleasing way • a town *fairly* situated on a hill

fair-minded /'feəmaɪndəd/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] : having or showing an honest and fair way of thinking • a *fair-minded* man • *fair-minded* reporting

— **fair-minded-ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

fair play *noun* [*noncount*] : a way of behaving or of treating other people that is honest and fair • The court's decision goes against my sense of *fair play*. [=the court's decision does not seem fair to me] — see also *turnabout is fair play* at **TURNABOUT**

fair sex *noun*

the fair sex also *the fairer sex* *old-fashioned* — used to refer to all women as a group • a member of *the fair sex*

fair-way /'feəwei/ *noun, pl -ways* [*count*] : the part of a golf course that has short grass and that lies between a tee and a green • Her shot landed at the left side of the *fairway*. — compare **ROUGH**

fair-weather /'feəweðə/ *adj, always used before a noun, disapproving* : loyal or helpful only during times of success and happiness • They are *fair-weather* friends. [=they are friends when you are successful but not when you fail] • *fair-weather* fans

fairy /'feri/ *noun, pl fair-ies* [*count*]

1 *in stories* : a creature that looks like a very small human being, has magic powers, and sometimes has wings • a good *fairy* • a *fairy* princess — see also **TOOTH FAIRY**

2 *informal + offensive* : a homosexual man

— **fairy-like** /'feri,laɪk/ *adj*

fairy cake *noun, pl ~ cakes* [*count*] *Brit* : **CUPCAKE**

fairy godmother *noun, pl ~ -thers* [*count*] *in stories* : a woman with magic powers who saves a person from trouble

fairy-land /'feri,lænd/ *noun, pl -lands* [*count*]

1 *in stories* : a place where fairies live

2 : a beautiful or magical place • a winter *fairyland* of snow-covered trees

fairy tale *noun, pl ~ tales* [*count*]

1 : a simple children's story about magical creatures • the *fairy tale* about the sleeping princess — sometimes used figuratively • Their marriage is a real-life *fairy tale*. [=they have a

very happy marriage] • a *fairy-tale* romance — called also *fairy story*

2 : a false story that is meant to trick people • Everything he told us about his happy marriage was just a *fairy tale*.

fait ac-com-pli /'feɪtə,kɑ:m'pli:/ *noun, pl* **faits ac-com-plis** /'feɪtə,kɑ:m'pli:/ [*count*] *formal* : something that has been done and cannot be changed • By the time we learned about the decision, it was already a *fait accompli*.

faith /'feɪθ/ *noun, pl* **faiths**

1 [*noncount*] : strong belief or trust in someone or something • His supporters have accepted his claims with blind/unquestioning *faith*. • Our *faith* in the government has been badly shaken by the recent scandals. • His parents have always *had faith* in him. = His parents have never *lost faith* in him. [=his parents have always believed that he is a person who deserves to be trusted and who will succeed] • I *have no faith* in politicians. = I *put/have little faith* in politicians. [=I do not trust politicians] • Lending him the money to start his own business was an *act of faith*. • It requires a giant *leap of faith* for us to believe that she is telling the truth. — see also **BAD FAITH, GOOD FAITH**

2 a [*noncount*] : belief in the existence of God : strong religious feelings or beliefs • religious *faith* • Nothing is more important to her than her *faith* in God. • She says that her *faith* has given her the courage to deal with this tragedy. • He says he has *found faith*. [=he has begun to believe in God or has developed strong religious beliefs] • **b** [*count*] : a system of religious beliefs : RELIGION • people of all *faiths* • the Christian/Jewish/Muslim *faith*

accept/take (something) on faith : to accept (something) as true without proof or evidence that it is true • I'm not willing to *take her statements on faith*. • I'll *accept it on faith* that he knows the truth.

an article of faith : something that is believed without being questioned or doubted • For many it is an *article of faith* that the economy will begin to improve soon.

break faith with : to stop supporting or being loyal to (someone) : to betray (someone) • He has accused the government of *breaking faith with* its supporters.

keep faith with : to continue supporting or being loyal to (someone) • He has *kept faith with* his old political allies.

keep the faith : to continue to believe in, trust, or support someone or something when it is difficult to do so • The team has been playing poorly, but its devoted fans have *kept the faith*. [=they have continued to support the team]

faith-ful /'feɪθfəl/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]

1 : having or showing true and constant support or loyalty • a *faithful* friend/companion • *faithful* friendship • the team's *faithful* fans • a *faithful* dog — often + *to* • Despite his problems, his friends have remained *faithful to* him. • She has always remained *faithful to* the values she learned as a child.

2 : deserving trust : keeping your promises or doing what you are supposed to do • a *faithful* worker/servant • She has provided the company with many years of *faithful* service. — often + *to* • He began to keep a journal and was *faithful to* it for years. [=he continued to write in his journal for many years] • He was not *faithful to* his word. [=he did not do what he said he would]

3 : not having sex with someone who is not your wife, husband, girlfriend, or boyfriend • a *faithful* husband/wife • He insists that he has always been *faithful to* his wife.

4 : exact and accurate • The movie was a *faithful* adaptation of the book. • a *faithful* copy — often + *to* • The movie is *faithful to* the book. [=the story told in the movie closely matches the story told in the book]

the faithful **1** : the people who believe or participate in a religion • *The faithful* gather here each year to celebrate together. **2** : the people who are loyal members or supporters of a group or organization • *The faithful* come out and cheer for the team every year. • The convention was packed with *the Republican/Democratic faithful*.

— **faith-ful-ly** /'feɪθfəli/ *adv* • My friends have supported me *faithfully*. • He *faithfully* submitted all the proper forms. • The model *faithfully* [=accurately] reproduces the original building. — **faith-ful-ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

faith healing *noun* [*noncount*] : a way of treating diseases by using prayer and religious faith

— **faith healer** *noun, pl* ~ **-ers** [*count*]

faith-less /'feɪθləs/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : not able to be trusted • a *faithless* friend/employee/servant

— **faith-less-ly** *adv* — **faith-less-ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

fa-ji-ta /fə'hi:tə/ *noun, pl* **-tas** [*count*] : a Mexican food that

consists of cooked strips of meat served with a flour tortilla and fillings (such as tomatoes, onions, and peppers) — usually plural • *steak fajitas*

1 fake /'feɪk/ *adj* : not true or real • *fake* emotions • She's a *fake* friend. : meant to look real or genuine but not real or genuine • That blood is clearly *fake*. • *fake* fur/leather • He was wearing a *fake* mustache.

2 fake *noun, pl* **fakes** [*count*]

1 : a copy of something that is meant to look like the real thing in order to trick people • Experts says that the antique/painting/signature is a *fake*.

2 : a person who pretends to have some special knowledge or ability or pretends to be someone else • He told everyone he was a lawyer, but he was just a *fake*.

3 US, sports : a movement (such as a pretended kick, pass, or step) that is meant to trick an opponent • The runner made a *fake* to the left and then cut to the right.

3 fake *verb* **fakes; faked** **fak-ing**

1 [+ *obj*] **a** : to make (something) seem real or true in order to trick someone • He *faked* a heart attack. • *fake* an emotion • She *faked* her own death. [=she tricked people into thinking that she had died] **b** : to change (something) in order to trick people • He *faked* the test results. **c** : to make a copy of (something) in order to trick people • She *faked* her father's signature. • He *faked* a rare first edition.

2 US, sports **a** [+ *obj*] : to pretend to do (something) in order to trick an opponent • The quarterback *faked* a handoff and then threw a pass downfield. **b** [+ *obj*] : to trick (an opponent) by pretending to do something • The runner *faked* the defender by stepping to his left and then cutting to the right. — often + *out* • He *faked out* the defender. **c** [*no obj*] : to make a false movement in order to deceive an opponent • The runner *faked* left and then cut to the right.

3 [+ *obj*] : to pretend to know or to be able to do (something) • He didn't know the words to the song, so he had to *fake* them.

fake it informal : to pretend to be something that you are not or to have some knowledge or ability that you do not really have • He acts like he's my friend, but I can tell that he's just *faking it*. • He didn't know the words to the song, so he had to *fake it*.

fake out [*phrasal verb*] **fake (someone) out or fake out (someone) chiefly US, informal** : to deliberately deceive (someone) : FOOL • Don't believe him when he says he'll help you. He's just trying to *fake you out*. — see also **3FAKE 2b** (above)

— **fak-er** *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] • You're not hurt, you *faker*.

fal-con /'fælkən, 'fɑ:lkən/ *noun, pl* **-cons** [*count*] : a type of hawk that can fly very fast and is sometimes trained to hunt

fal-con-er /'fælkənə, 'fɑ:lkənə/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] : a person who hunts with hawks or trains hawks for hunting

fal-con-ry /'fæ:lkənri, 'fɑ:lkənri/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the sport of hunting with hawks

1 fall /'fɑ:l/ *verb* **falls; fell** /'fɛl/; **fall-en** /'fɑ:lən/; **fall-ing** [*no obj*]

1 a : to come or go down quickly from a high place or position • An apple *fell* from the tree. • A vase *fell* off the shelf. • Rain *fell* from the sky. • the sound of the *falling* rain **b** : to come or go down suddenly from a standing position • She slipped and *fell* on the ice. • He *fell* flat on his face. • She was afraid that I would trip and *fall*. • He *fell* down the stairs. • One of the sailors had *fallen* overboard. • a *fallen* tree — often + *down* or *over* • She *fell down* and hurt herself. • The tree *fell over* during the storm. **c** : to let yourself come or go down to a lower position • He *fell* [=dropped, sank] to his knees and asked for forgiveness. • He *fell back/forward* onto the bed.

2 a : to come down at a particular place after moving through the air • The shot *fell* a great distance from its target. — often + *on* • A ray of light *fell on* the table. — sometimes used figuratively • music *falling on* the ear **b** : to slope downward — usually + *away* • The ground *falls away* to the east. • The sides of the ridge *fall away* steeply. **c** : to hang down • Her hair *fell* loosely over her shoulders.

3 a : to become lower • The tide rose and *fell*. • The temperature *fell* after dark. • His heart rate *fell* (off) dramatically. • The value of the stock has *fallen* drastically. **b** : to become less • Participation in the group has *fallen*. [=declined] — often + *off* • Participation in the group has *fallen off*. • Factory production has *fallen off*. **c** : to lose value : to suffer a decline in prices • Stocks *fell* several points in early trading today. • The market is continuing to *fall*. **d** : to become less

loud • His voice *fell* (to a whisper). • The music rose and *fell*.
4 a of a glance or the eyes : to become lowered • Her eyes *fell*.
 [=she looked down] **b of the face** : to begin to look ashamed
 or disappointed • His face *fell* [=he looked disappointed]
 when he heard the news.

5 of night or darkness : to arrive or begin • Darkness *falls* early
 in the winter. • Night has *fallen*.

6 a : to be wounded or killed in battle • Many men *fell* on
 the battlefield that day. **b** : to be captured or defeated • The
 fortress *fell* on the third day of the siege. **c** : to experience
 ruin or failure • A great civilization *fell* in less than a century.
 • a *fallen* [=disgraced] leader • We will stand or *fall* together. •
 a politician who has *fallen* from power • The coalition gov-
 ernment *fell* after only six months in office.

7 a : to happen at a specified time • Christmas *falls* on a Fri-
 day this year. • The worst weather of the year *fell* during his
 vacation. **b** — used when something (such as a responsibil-
 ity) comes or passes to someone in a way that does not in-
 volve choice • It *fell* to me [=it was my responsibility] to tell
 them about the car accident. • Responsibility for the damage
falls with the other driver. • The estate *fell* to his brother.
 [=his brother inherited the estate] **c** : to have a specified
 proper place • The accent *falls* on the second syllable. • The
 comma *falls* inside the quotation mark.

8 : to belong in a particular category or range • This word
falls within the class of verbs. • Her political views *fall* some-
 where between liberal and conservative. • His creative out-
 put *falls* into three distinct categories.

9 a — used when someone's body or mind passes from one
 condition or state to another • She *fell* ill/sick. • He *fell* asleep.
b — used when something passes to a different and usually a
 less active or less desirable state or condition • The crowd *fell*
 silent. • This word has *fallen* [=gone] out of use. = This word
 has *fallen* into disuse. [=this word is no longer used] • His the-
 ories have now *fallen* into disrepute/disfavor. • The machin-
 ery has *fallen* into disrepair.

10 : to start doing something in a very active and energetic
 way — + *to* • She came in and *fell* immediately *to* work.

(as) *easy as falling off a log* see ¹EASY

fall afoul of see AFOUL OF

fall (all) over yourself : to be very eager or too eager • Fans
 were *falling over themselves* trying to meet the basketball
 star. • Reviewers are *falling all over themselves* to praise her
 latest novel.

fall apart [phrasal verb] **1** : to break into parts in usually a
 sudden and unexpected way • The pie was *falling apart* as I
 tried to serve it. — often used figuratively • I feel as if my
 family is *falling apart*. ✧ Something that is *falling apart* is
 in very bad condition. • My old car is *falling apart*. • The
 house was *falling apart* when we bought it. **2** : to become
 unable to live in a normal way because you are experienc-
 ing a lot of confusion or emotional pain • She began to *fall*
apart when her son was imprisoned.

fall away [phrasal verb] : to become gradually less : to disap-
 pear gradually • The sound of the parade *fell away* in the
 distance.

fall back [phrasal verb] **1** : to move back away from some-
 thing dangerous or threatening : RETREAT • The crowd *fell*
back when the police arrived. • The guerrillas *fell back*
 across the border after a brief battle with the army. **2 fall**
back on (something) also fall back upon (something) : to
 use (something) for help or protection when you are in a
 bad situation • When her health insurance was canceled
 she had nothing to *fall back on*. • They had to *fall back on*
 their emergency supplies when the snow storm blocked
 the road to town.

fall behind [phrasal verb] **1** : to fail to move or go forward
 as quickly as others • We had to stop several times so that
 the slower hikers wouldn't *fall* (too far) *behind*. **2** : to fail
 to do something as quickly as planned or required — often
 + *with* • We've been *falling further behind with* our work.
 — often + *on* • I am *falling behind on* my homework. • We
fell behind on our car payments.

fall down on the job : to do a job badly • The people who
 are supposed to be keeping the city clean have been *falling*
down on the job.

fall flat : to produce no response or result • All of his jokes
fell flat. [=no one laughed at his jokes]

fall for [phrasal verb] **1 fall for (someone)** : to feel a strong
 attraction for (someone) : to fall in love with (someone) •
 He *fell for* her the moment he saw her. • He *fell for* her
 hard. = He *fell hard for* her. = He *fell for* her like a ton of
 bricks. [=he became deeply in love with her] **2 fall for**

(something) : to be fooled by (something, such as a trick) •
 I can't believe you *fell for* that old trick.

fall foul of see ¹FOUL

fall from grace see ¹GRACE

fall in [phrasal verb] **1** : to break apart and fall down in an
 inward direction • The roof *fell in*. **2** : to take your place
 in a military formation • The troops were ordered to *fall in*.
 — compare FALL OUT (below)

fall in/into line : to start to do what you are told or required
 to do • Several of the older companies have refused to *fall*
in line (with the new regulations). • It was weeks before the
 new prisoner *fell into line*.

fall in love, fall out of love see ¹LOVE

fall into [phrasal verb] **1** : to be caught in (a trap) • We *fell*
into a trap. **2** : to begin to do or experience (something)
 or to be affected by (something) without wanting or trying
 to • He *fell* deeply *into* debt. • She *fell into* her career almost
 accidentally. • She *fell into the habit* of going out for ice
 cream every night.

fall into place : to fit together : to make sense • The pieces
 of the puzzle/mystery are finally starting to *fall into place*.

fall into step see ¹STEP

fall into the hands of : to come to be held or possessed by
 (someone) • Officials are concerned that the stolen weap-
 ons may *fall into the hands of* terrorists. [=that terrorists
 may get/obtain the stolen weapons]

fall into the wrong hands : to come to be held or possessed
 by the wrong person or group • There could be a disaster if
 the weapons *fell into the wrong hands*.

fall into your lap see ¹LAP

fall in with [phrasal verb] **1 fall in with (someone)** : to begin
 to spend time with (someone) • Their daughter *fell in with* a
 bad crowd. **2 fall in with (something)** : to accept and act
 in agreement with (something) • They readily *fell in with*
 our plans.

fall off [phrasal verb] : to stop being attached to something •
 The handle was so loose that it almost *fell off*. — see also
¹FALL 3b (above)

fall on/upon [phrasal verb] **1 fall on/upon (something) a**
 : to begin to experience (something) : to meet with (an ex-
 perience) • We *fell on* hard times after I lost my job. • The
 company *fell upon* some unexpected competition. **b** : to
 notice (something) especially without wanting or trying to
 • Her eyes/glance *fell on* the letter on his desk. **2 fall on/**
upon (someone) : to attack (someone) suddenly • They *fell*
on the enemy soldiers and killed every one of them.

fall on deaf ears see ¹EAR

fall on your feet see ¹FOOT

fall out [phrasal verb] **1 of a tooth or hair** : to stop being at-
 tached to the body • The cancer treatments made her hair
fall out. **2** : to have an argument • They *fell out* [=fought,
 argued] over money. • He had *fallen out* [=quarreled] with
 his neighbor. — see also FALLING-OUT **3** : to leave your
 place in a military formation • The soldiers were ordered to
fall out. — compare FALL IN (above)

fall over backward see ¹BACKWARD

fall prey to see ¹PREY

fall short **1** : to fail to be as good or successful as expected
 or hoped for • In comparison to her previous novel, this
 one *falls short*. [=this one is not as good] — often + *of* • Her
 current book *falls short of* her previous novel. • The cruise
fell short of our expectations [=the cruise was not as good
 as we expected it to be] **2** : to fail to reach a goal • Their
 efforts *fell short*. — often + *of* • Their efforts *fell* (far) *short*
of (achieving) their goal.

fall through [phrasal verb] : to fail or stop in a sudden or fi-
 nal way • Contract negotiations have *fallen through*. • Our
 vacation plans have *fallen through*.

fall through/between the cracks see ²CRACK

fall through the net see ¹NET

fall to pieces see ¹PIECE

fall under [phrasal verb] *fall under (something)* : to be influ-
 enced or affected by (something) • He *fell under* her influ-
 ence. • *fall under* a spell • He has *fallen under* suspicion.
 [=people have begun to suspect him of doing something]

fall victim to see VICTIM

let the chips fall where they may see ¹CHIP

²*fall* noun, pl falls

1 [count] : the act of falling: such as **a** : the act of coming or
 going down from a high position or from a standing position
 • a *fall* from a horse • She's had/suffered several bad *falls* in
 recent years. • a *fall* of three feet • He slipped on the ice and
 hurt his hand when he tried to *break his fall* [=to stop him-

self from falling] **b** : the act of becoming lower • the rise and *fall* of the tide

2 US : the season between summer and winter : the season when leaves fall from trees : AUTUMN [count] She went off to college in the *fall*. • an unusually warm *fall* [noncount] in early/late *fall* • Several weeks of *fall* remain before winter begins. • When *fall* came he planted grass. — often used before another noun • our *fall* catalog • a new *fall* coat • *fall* colors/ foliage • the *fall* harvest

3 [count] : a decrease in the size, amount, degree, activity, or value of something • a *fall* in the price of oil

4 a [singular] : loss of power or greatness • the rise and *fall* [=collapse] of an empire **b** [singular] : the surrender or capture of a place that is being attacked • the *fall* of Troy • The *fall* of the fort caused the local civilians to flee. **c** [singular] : loss of innocence or goodness • a *fall* from virtue **d the Fall** : the event in the Bible when Adam and Eve are forced to leave the Garden of Eden because they have sinned against God • after the *Fall*

5 [count] : an area on a river or stream where water runs steeply downward — usually plural • Bears hunted for fish in the rocky *falls*. [=waterfall] • Niagara *Falls*

be riding for a fall see ¹RIDE

fall from grace see ¹GRACE

— see also FREE FALL, WINDFALL

fal·la·cious /fəˈleɪʃəs/ *adj* [more ~; most ~] *formal* : containing a mistake : not true or accurate • a *fallacious* [=false] set of assumptions • *fallacious* [=misleading] arguments

— *fal·la·cious·ly adv* — *fal·la·cious·ness noun* [noncount]

fal·la·cy /ˈfæləsi/ *noun, pl -cies*

1 [count] : a wrong belief : a false or mistaken idea • popular *fallacies* about medicine • It's a *fallacy* (to believe) that the Earth is flat.

2 [noncount] : the quality of being false or wrong • The *fallacy* of their ideas about medicine soon became apparent.

fall guy *noun, pl ~ guys* [count] *informal* : a person who is blamed for something done by others : SCAPEGOAT • His lawyers will argue that he was set up as a/the *fall guy* for crimes he had no part in.

fal·li·ble /ˈfæləbəl/ *adj* [more ~; most ~] : capable of making mistakes or being wrong • *fallible* human beings — opposite INFALLIBLE

— *fal·li·bil·i·ty* /ˈfæləˈbɪləti/ *noun* [noncount] • She acknowledged her *fallibility*. • scientific *fallibility*

fall-ing-out /ˈfɑːlɪŋˈaʊt/ *noun, pl fall-ings-out* [count] : a serious argument or disagreement • The two actors barely spoke after their bitter *falling-out*. • He had a *falling-out* with his parents over money. — see also *fall out* at ¹FALL

falling star *noun, pl ~ stars* [count] : METEOR

fall-out /ˈfɑːlˌaʊt/ *noun* [noncount]

1 : the radioactive particles that are produced by a nuclear explosion and that fall through the atmosphere • radioactive *fallout* • a *fallout shelter* [=a shelter built underground to protect people from radioactive fallout]

2 : a bad effect or result of something • concerned about the possible political *fallout* from the scandal

fal-low /ˈfæləʊ/ *adj*

1 : not used for growing crops : not planted • *fallow* land/ fields • allowing several fields to *lie fallow*

2 : not active or productive • a writer who has been going through a *fallow period* [=a period in which he has done no writing] • There were too many promising ideas *lying fallow* [=not being used] at the company.

false /ˈfæɪls/ *adj*

1 : not real or genuine — used to say that something is not really what it seems to be • *false* documents • *false* teeth/hair/eyelashes • a trunk with a *false* bottom

2 : not true or accurate • Indicate whether each of the following statements is true or *false*.; *especially* : deliberately untrue : done or said to fool or deceive someone • *false* testimony • *false* accusations/statements • a *false* promise • *false* advertising • He registered at the hotel under a *false* name. • The loan was obtained *on/under false pretenses* [=by pretending that a certain condition or circumstance was true]

3 : based on mistaken ideas • Your conclusion is based on *false* [=incorrect] assumptions. • *false* confidence/pride • *false* expectations/hopes • The dog gave her a *false* sense of security. [=made her feel safe when she was not really safe]

4 a : not faithful or loyal • a *false* friend **b** : not sincere • *false* modesty • *false* sympathy

5 : sudden or deceptive in a threatening way • The police

warned him not to make any *false moves/movements* [=movements that are not expected and that may be threatening or dangerous]

— *false·ly adv* • He was *falsely* accused of stealing. • The suspect stated *falsely* that she was working that day. — *false·ness noun* [noncount]

false alarm *noun, pl ~ alarms* [count]

1 : an alarm (such as a fire alarm) that is set off when it is not needed • A *false alarm* drew firefighters to the school.

2 : something that causes people to wrongly believe that something bad or dangerous is going to happen • The report that the factory would be closing was a *false alarm*. • He thought he might be having a heart attack, but his chest pains were just a *false alarm*.

false arrest *noun, pl ~ -rests* [count, noncount] : an arrest that is not legally justified • He's suing the police for *false arrest*.

false-hood /ˈfæɪlsˌhʊd/ *noun, pl -hoods*

1 [count] : an untrue statement : LIE • a politician accused of spreading (malicious) *falsehoods* about his opponent

2 [noncount] : the quality of not being true or accurate : false quality • the *falsehood* [= (more commonly) *falsehood*, *falsity*] of these accusations • the line between truth and *falsehood*

false start *noun, pl ~ starts* [count]

1 : the mistake of starting too soon in a race • If someone makes/commits a *false start*, the race is immediately stopped and the runners have to start again.

2 : an unsuccessful attempt to begin something (such as a career or a project) • After several *false starts*, the researchers were finally able to identify the virus causing the epidemic.

fal-set-to /fəlˈsetəʊ/ *noun, pl -tos* [count, noncount] : a very high voice used by a man (such as a male singer) • He sang in (a) *falsetto*. • a *falsetto* voice

— *falsetto adv* • singing *falsetto*

fals·ie /ˈfæɪlsɪ/ *noun, pl -sies* [count] *informal*

1 : a piece of material (such as rubber) that is worn under a bra to make the breast appear larger — usually plural • a woman wearing *falsies*

2 : false eyelashes — usually plural • Instead of mascara, she wore *falsies*.

fal-si-fy /ˈfæɪlsəˌfaɪ/ *verb -fies; -fied; -fy-ing* [+ *obj*] : to make (something) false : to change (something) in order to make people believe something that is not true • He was caught *falsifying* financial accounts.

— *fal-si-fi-ca-tion* /ˈfæɪlsəˌfɪˈkeɪʃən/ *noun, pl -tions* [count, noncount]

fal-si-ty /ˈfæɪlsəti/ *noun, pl -ties* *formal*

1 [noncount] : the quality of not being true or accurate : the quality of being false • The army would not comment on the truth or *falsity* [=falseness] of the report.

2 [count] : an untrue statement • spreading *falsities* [= (more commonly) *falsehoods*, *lies*] over the Internet

fal-ter /ˈfæɪltər/ *verb -ters; -tered; -ter-ing* [no *obj*]

1 : to stop being strong or successful : to begin to fail or weaken • The business was *faltering* due to poor management. • Their initial optimism has *faltered*. • signs that the economy is *faltering*

2 : to begin to walk or move in an unsteady way • Her steps began to *falter*.

3 : to feel doubt about doing something • He never *faltered* [=wavered] in his determination to go to college.

4 ✧ If your *voice falters*, you are unable to speak normally because you are unsure about what to say or because you are feeling strong emotions. • Her *voice faltered* when she spoke about her parents.

— *faltering adj* • a *faltering* economy • They are trying to save their *faltering* [=failing] marriage. • He was only able to take a few *faltering* steps.

fame /ˈfeɪm/ *noun* [noncount] : the condition of being known or recognized by many people • He died at the height of his *fame*. • The book tells the story of her sudden rise to *fame*. • He gained/found *fame* as an actor. • The house was once occupied by Noah Webster of dictionary *fame*. [=Noah Webster, who was famous for his dictionary] • achieving/earning/winning international/worldwide *fame* • She went to Hollywood seeking *fame* and fortune. — see also HALL OF FAME

claim to fame see ²CLAIM

famed /ˈfeɪmd/ *adj* : known and usually liked by many people : FAMOUS • a *famed* writer • a bowl of the restaurant's *famed* chili — often + *for* • a restaurant *famed for* its chili

fa·mil·ial /fə'mɪljəl/ *adj*

1 : of or relating to a family • *familial* relationships : suggesting a family • The company has created a *familial* atmosphere in its offices.

2 *medical* : tending to affect members of the same family • a *familial* disease

fa·mil·iar /fə'mɪljə/ *adj* [more ~; most ~]

1 a : frequently seen, heard, or experienced • a *familiar* joke/sight • *familiar* surroundings • The essay covers *familiar* ground/territory. • It's a sad but (all too) *familiar* story. • She has become a *familiar* figure in the world of politics. — often + *to* • surroundings that are more *familiar to* us • foods that are already *familiar to* most Americans **b** — used to say that something is easy for you to recognize because you have seen, heard, or experienced it many times in the past • He spotted a *familiar* face in the crowd. • a *familiar* voice **c** : possibly known but not clearly remembered • He looked *familiar* [=he looked like someone I had seen before] but I couldn't remember his name. • Her name is/sounds/seems (vaguely) *familiar*.

2 a : relaxed and informal • She spoke in a *familiar* way about her past. • an essay written in a *familiar* style **b** : appropriate for use with people you know well • a *familiar* way of addressing someone **c** : too friendly • They felt the waiter was being overly *familiar*. — often + *with* • He avoids being overly/too *familiar with* his employees.

familiar with : having some knowledge about (something) • We are *familiar with* the situation. [=we know about the situation] • I'm not very *familiar with* that area.

— **fa·mil·iar·ly** *adv* • The coach patted him *familiarly* on the back. • Locals refer to the Maple Leaf restaurant *familiarly* [=informally] as 'The Leaf.'

fa·mil·iar·i·ty /fə'mɪli'ærəti/ *noun* [noncount]

1 : the state of being familiar with something : the state of having knowledge about something — usually + *with* • His *familiarity with* local issues helped him during the campaign. • The job requires *familiarity with* current software. ♦ The expression *familiarity breeds contempt* means that knowing a lot about someone or something can cause you to like that person or thing less.

2 : a friendly and informal way of acting or talking • He spoke to everyone with the easy/relaxed *familiarity* of an old friend.

fa·mil·iar·ize also *Brit* **fa·mil·iar·ise** /fə'mɪljə'reɪz/ *verb* -iz-es; -ized; -iz-ing [+ *obj*] : to give (someone) knowledge about something : to make (someone) familiar with something • The visit was meant to *familiarize* [=acquaint] students with the library. • I've been slowly *familiarizing* myself with the neighborhood.

— **fa·mil·iar·i·za·tion** also *Brit* **fa·mil·iar·i·sa·tion** /fə'mɪljərə'zeɪʃən, *Brit* fə'mɪljə'reɪ'zeɪʃən/ *noun* [noncount]

¹fam·i·ly /'fæmli/ *noun*, *pl* -lies

1 a : a group of people who are related to each other ♦ This sense of *family* can refer to a group that consists of parents and their children or it can refer to a bigger group of related people including grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, etc. It is often used specifically of a group of related people who live together in one house. [count] There were a lot of *families* at the circus. • a close/close-knit *family* • The show is fun for the whole/entire *family*. • the royal *family* • a single-parent *family* • a death in the *family* • There are several doctors on his mother's side of the *family*. • She wants to spend more time with her *family*. • my sister and other members of my *immediate family* [=the group that includes my parents, my brothers and sisters, and me] • After his father's death he became the *head of the family*. • She's a *friend of the family*. • a *two-family house/dwelling* [=a house that has separate areas for two families to live in] [noncount] He spent a quiet evening at home with *family*. • trying to find a balance between work and *family* • She was surrounded by friends and *family*. [=family members] • He has *family* in California. [=he has relatives who live in California] ♦ To be treated *like one of the family* or *like family* is to be treated in a very warm and kind way, like a member of someone's family. • They treat their guests *like family*. ♦ You can informally describe someone as a member of your family by saying that he or she *is family*. • You're always welcome here because *you're family*. • My brother has a lot of faults, but we forgive him because *he's family*. ♦ If something *runs in the family* or *runs in someone's family*, it occurs in all or many members of a family. • Musical talent *runs in her family*. [=many or all of the people in her family have musical talent] — see also EXTENDED FAMILY, NUCLEAR FAMILY **b** [count] : a person's

children • He's devoted to his wife and *family*. • My sister and her husband want to have a big/large *family*. [=to have many children] • They want to *raise a family*. [=to have children] • They want to *start a family* [=to begin having children] soon. **c** [count] : a group of related people including people who lived in the past • My *family* came to America from Italy. • Their *family* has lived here for many generations.

usage In U.S. English, *family* is used with a singular verb. • His *family* has always supported him. In British English, *family* can also be used with a plural verb. • His *family* have always supported him.

2 [count] : a group of people who resemble a family in some way • We like to think that the people who work here are all one big, happy *family*.

3 [count] : a group of things that are alike in some way • a *family* of languages/instruments

4 [count] : a group of related plants or animals • Peaches, apples, and roses belong to one *family*. • a plant that belongs to the cabbage *family* • Despite their large size, crows are members of the songbird *family*.

5 [count] : a group of criminals who work together in an organized way • the suspected head of a crime *family*

²family *adj*, always used before a noun

1 : of or relating to a family • *family* members • a *family* picnic • the *family* business/car • He enjoys *family* life [=he enjoys spending time with his wife and children] • an old *family* friend [=friend of the family]

2 : designed or suitable for both children and adults • a *family* restaurant • *family* entertainment • *family* [=wholesome] values

the family jewels see JEWEL

family doctor *noun*, *pl* ~ -tors [count] : a doctor who treats the members of a family : a doctor who provides general medical care for people of all ages — called also *family practitioner*

family leave *noun* [noncount] : a period of time when an employee has permission to be away from a job in order to deal with family matters (such as caring for a baby or a sick family member)

family man *noun*, *pl* ~ men [count] : a man who has a wife and children; *especially* : a man who enjoys spending a lot of time with his wife and children

family name *noun*, *pl* ~ names [count] : the name shared by the people in a family : SURNAME • Her *family name* is Smith.

family planning *noun* [noncount] : the use of birth control to determine the number of children there will be in a family and when those children will be born

family practice *noun* [noncount] : the work of providing general medical care for people of all ages • She plans to enter *family practice* when she graduates from med school. — called also *family medicine*

family practitioner *noun*, *pl* ~ -ers [count] : FAMILY DOCTOR

family room *noun*, *pl* ~ rooms [count]

1 *US* : a large, informal room in a family's house that is designed as a place for children and parents to spend time playing and relaxing

2 *Brit* : a room in a pub in which children are allowed

family tree *noun*, *pl* ~ trees [count] : a drawing or chart that shows how the different members of a family are related to each other • A framed *family tree* hung on the wall.

fam·ine /'fæmən/ *noun*, *pl* -ines : a situation in which many people do not have enough food to eat [count] The *famine* affected half the continent. [noncount] millions killed by war, drought, and *famine*

fam·ished /'fæmɪʃt/ *adj* [more ~; most ~] *informal* : very hungry • What's for supper? I'm *famished*.

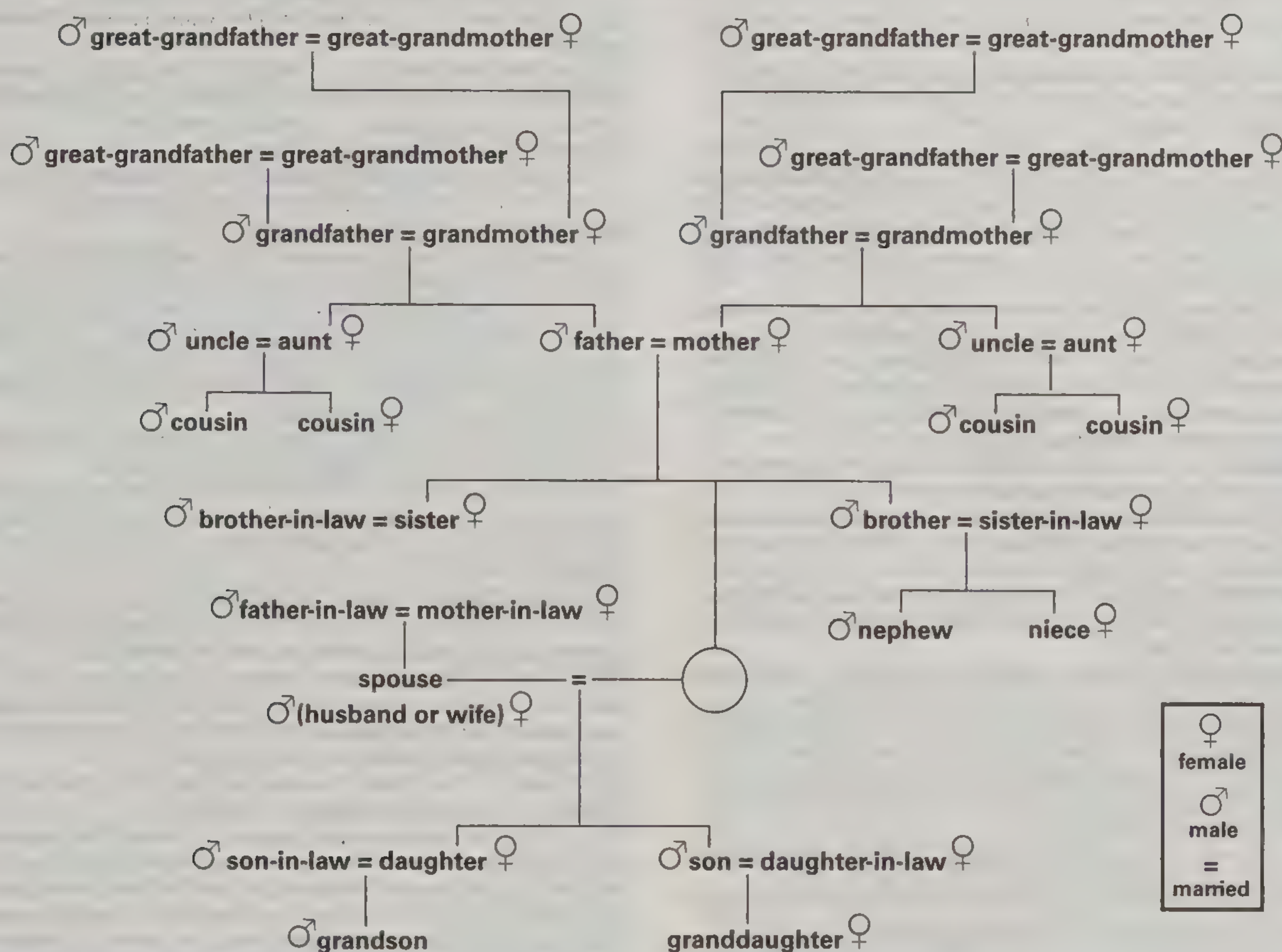
fa·mous /'feɪməs/ *adj* [more ~; most ~] : known or recognized by very many people : having fame • an internationally *famous* hotel • a *famous* entertainer/explorer/athlete/politician — often + *for* or *as* • The hotel is (justly) *famous for* its luxury. • The hotel is *famous as* the place where the treaty was signed. — see also WORLD-FAMOUS

fa·mous·ly /'feɪməsli/ *adv*

1 : in a way that is known by many people : in a famous manner • The executive *famously* insisted on riding the bus to work every day. • the team's *famously* passionate fans [=fans who are famous for being passionate]

2 ♦ People who *get on/along famously* like each other and

family

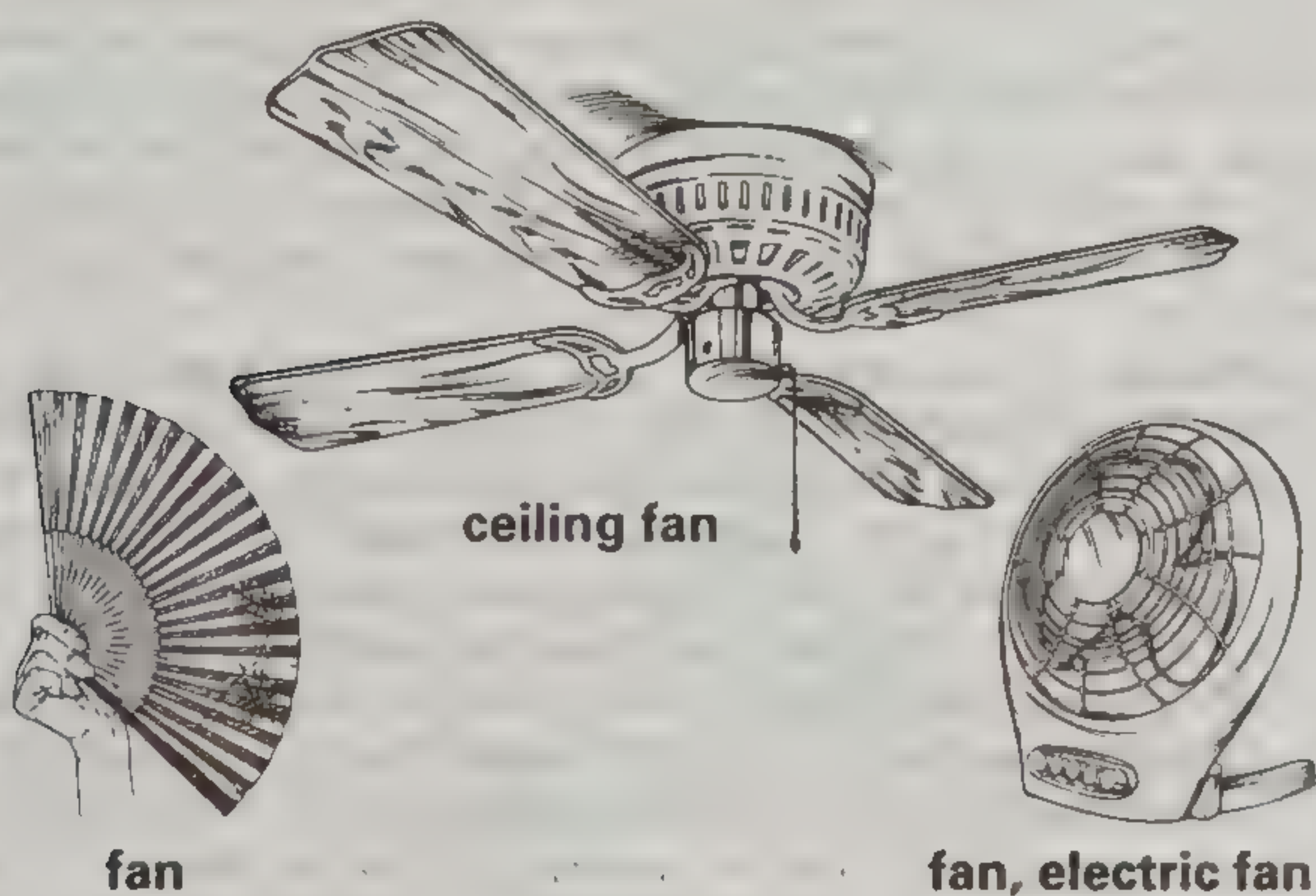


enjoy each other's company very much. • They've always *gotten along famously* (together).

¹**fan** /'fæn/ *noun, pl fans* [count]: a machine or device that is used to move the air and make people or things cooler: such as **a**: a flat device that is held in your hand and waved back and forth in front of your face **b**: an electrical machine that has turning blades • The engine was cooled by an electric fan. — see picture at CAR

hit the fan *informal*: to cause a lot of anger and trouble — used especially to describe what happens when people find out about something that makes them very angry • I don't want to be there when it *hits the fan*. — often used in the impolite phrase *when the shit hits the fan*

— compare ³FAN



fan

ceiling fan

fan, electric fan

²**fan** *verb* fans; fanned; fan-ning

1 [+ *obj*]: to move air on or toward (someone or something) with a fan • He *fanned* himself with a newspaper while he waited for the bus. ♦ To *fan a fire* is literally to blow air onto a fire so that it will burn more strongly. In figurative use the phrase *fan the fires/flames* means to make an emotional situation more dangerous, so that people become angrier and more likely to act in a violent way. • They are *fanning the flames* of hate. • The rebels did all they could to *fan the fires* of revolution. [=to encourage revolution]

2 *baseball, informal*: to strike out [+ *obj*] The pitcher has

fanned six batters in the first three innings. [no *obj*] The batter *fanned* on a curveball.

fan out [*phrasal verb*] *fan out or fan out (something) or fan (something) out*: to spread apart or to cause (something) to spread apart • The police *fanned out* across the park in search of the suspect. • He *fanned out* his fingers.

³**fan** *noun, pl fans* [count]: a person who likes and admires someone (such as a famous person) or something (such as a sport or a sports team) in a very enthusiastic way • I am a huge baseball *fan*. • sports *fans* • He's her biggest/greatest *fan*. • He is not a *fan* of insurance companies. [=he doesn't like insurance companies] — compare ¹FAN

fa·nat·ic /fə'nætɪk/ *noun, pl -ics* [count]

1: a person who is very enthusiastic about something • I became a boating *fanatic*.

2 *disapproving*: someone who has extreme ideas about politics, religion, etc. • a religious *fanatic* [=extremist]

— **fanatic or fa·nat·i·cal** /fə'nætɪkəl/ *adj* [more ~; most ~] • a *fanatic* supporter • *fanatical* zeal/devotion/loyalty — often + *about* • She's *fanatical about* her job. • He is *fanatical about* boating. — **fa·nat·i·cal·ly** /fə'nætɪkli/ *adv* • She was *fanatically* devoted to her job. — **fa·nat·i·cism** /fə'nætə,sɪzəm/ *noun* [noncount] • religious *fanaticism*

fan belt *noun, pl ~ belts* [count]: a band of material (such as rubber) that moves to provide power to the fan that cools the engine in a car

fan·ci·er /'fænsɪə/ *noun, pl -ers* [count]: a person who likes something or has an interest in something • a cat *fancier* [=a person who fancies/likes cats] • a wine *fancier*

fan·ci·ful /'fænsɪfəl/ *adj* [more ~; most ~]

1: coming from the imagination • a *fanciful* tale of a monster in the woods

2: showing imagination: unusual and appealing • They gave all their children *fanciful* names. • *fanciful* architecture

— **fan·ci·ful·ly** /'fænsɪfli/ *adv* • *fancifully* [=imaginatively] named children

fan club *noun, pl ~ clubs* [count]: an organization for people who admire a famous person, group, etc. • members of the singer's *fan club*

¹**fan·cy** /'fænsi/ *adj* fan·ci·er; -est

1: not plain or ordinary • a *fancy* dress • a *fancy* hairdo • *fancy* decorations

2 : very expensive and fashionable • a *fancy* restaurant • He drives a big, *fancy* car.

3 : done with great skill and grace • *fancy* footwork • *fancy* diving

4 *US, of food* : of the highest grade or quality • *fancy* tuna — **fan·ci·ly** /'fænsəli/ *adv* • a *fancily* carved ornament

²fancy noun, pl -cies

1 [*singular*] : the feeling of liking someone or something • Something about the movie really *struck/caught/tickled/took their fancy* [=something about the movie appealed to them very much] • She *took a fancy to* the stray dog. [=she formed a liking for the stray dog] • a *passing fancy* [=a liking that lasts only a short time]

2 **a** [*noncount*] : the power of the mind to imagine things : IMAGINATION • His plans to build a new stadium are the product of pure *fancy*. **b** : something imagined : FANTASY [*noncount*] Critics have dismissed his plan as mere *fancy*. [*count*] a mere *fancy* — see also *flight of fancy* at FLIGHT

³fancy verb -cies; -cied; -cy-ing [+ obj]

1 *informal* : to take pleasure in (something) • She has never *fancied* [=liked, enjoyed] large dinner parties.

2 *chiefly Brit, informal* : to consider (someone or something) likely to win or succeed • Do you *fancy* [=like] their chances? • Which horse do you *fancy* in the Derby?

3 *chiefly Brit, informal* : to want to have or do (something) • Do you *fancy* (having) another drink? [=would you like to have another drink?]

4 *Brit, informal* : to feel sexually attracted to (someone) • He's all right, I suppose, but I can't say I *fancy* him.

5 *Brit* : to imagine (something) • I have a hard time *fancying* you as a father. — often used to express surprise • *Fancy* [=imagine] our embarrassment when the police showed up at the door. • “The baby she brought home was the wrong one.” “*Fancy that*” [=imagine that]

6 : to think or believe (something) without being certain that you are right • I *fancy* (that) I've met him before.

fancy yourself chiefly Brit, informal : to think that you look good or that you are very special or important • They really *fancy themselves* after only one hit song! • I never thought I'd *fancy myself* in a kilt.

fancy dress *noun* [*noncount*] *chiefly Brit* : special clothes that you wear to a party where people are dressed to look like famous people, characters, etc. • Everyone wore *fancy dress* for the ball. • a *fancy-dress* ball/party [=a costume ball/party]

fan·cy-free /,fænsi'fri:/ *adj* : having no responsibilities : not held back by ties to other people — usually used in the phrase *footloose and fancy-free* • He felt *footloose and fancy-free* after he left college.

fan·dan·go /fæn'dæŋgou/ *noun, pl -gos* [*count*] : a fast Spanish dance

fan·fare /'fæn,feə/ *noun, pl -fares*

1 [*noncount*] : a lot of talk or activity showing that people are excited about something • The new jet was introduced with great *fanfare*.

2 [*count*] : a short piece of music played loudly with trumpets especially to announce that someone is arriving

fang /'fæŋ/ *noun, pl fangs* [*count*] : a long, sharp tooth • the *fangs* of a rattlesnake • a tiger baring/showing its *fangs* — **fanged** /'fæŋd/ *adj* • a *fanged* monster [=a monster that has fangs]

fan letter *noun, pl ~ -ters* [*count*] : a letter sent to a famous person by a fan • She sent a *fan letter* to her favorite star.

fan light *noun, pl ~ lights* [*count*]

1 *US* : a window in the shape of a half circle that is placed over a door or another window

2 *Brit* : TRANSOM 2

fan mail *noun* [*noncount*] : letters that are sent to a famous person by fans : fan letters • The band gets a lot of *fan mail*.

fan·ny /'fæni/ *noun, pl -nies* [*count*] *informal*

1 *US* : the part of the body that you sit on : BUTTOCKS • I'd like to give him a good kick in the *fanny*!

2 *Brit, offensive* : a woman's sexual organs

fanny pack *noun, pl ~ packs* [*count*] *US* : a small bag for carrying things that is worn with a strap which goes around a person's waist

fan·ta·size *also Brit fan·ta·sise* /'fæntəsaɪz/ *verb -siz-es; -sized; -siz-ing* : to imagine doing things that you are very unlikely to do : to have fantasies [*no obj*] — often + *about* • He *fantasized about* quitting his job and becoming a painter. [*+ obj*] She *fantasized* that she had won a million dollars.

fan·tas·tic /fæn'tæstik/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*]

1 : extremely good • That meal was *fantastic*! [=excellent, terrific] • We had a *fantastic* [=great, wonderful] time!

2 : extremely high or great • The train runs at *fantastic* speeds.

3 *also fan·tas·ti·cal* /fæn'tæstikəl/ : very strange, unusual, or unlikely • He concocted a *fantastic* [=wild, outlandish] scheme to rob the casino. • *fantastic* creatures

trip the light fantastic see ²TRIP

— **fan·tas·ti·cal·ly** /fæn'tæstikli/ *adv* • *fantastically* high speeds • My sister buys *fantastically* expensive clothes.

fan·ta·sy /'fæntəsi/ *noun, pl -sies*

1 : something that is produced by the imagination : an idea about doing something that is far removed from normal reality [*noncount*] His plans are pure *fantasy*. • He can hardly tell the difference between *fantasy* and reality. [*count*] His plans are just *fantasies*. • Her *fantasy* is to be a film star. • romantic/sexual *fantasies* • She's *living in a fantasy world* [=her ideas or plans are not realistic]

2 [*noncount*] : the act of imagining something : IMAGINATION • His plans are the product of pure *fantasy*.

3 : a book, movie, etc., that tells a story about things that happen in an imaginary world [*count*] I spent my summer reading *fantasies*. [*noncount*] I spent my summer reading *fantasy* (books).

fan·zine /'fæn,zi:n/ *noun, pl -zines* [*count*] : a magazine that is written by and for people who are fans of a particular person, group, etc. • a musician with her own *fanzine*

FAQ /'fæk, ,ef,eɪ'kju:/ *abbr* frequently asked question, frequently asked questions — used to refer to a list of questions and answers that is shown on a Web site to provide basic information to the people who use the site

¹**far** /'faə/ *adv* **far·ther** /'faəðə/ or **fur·ther** /'fəðə/; **far·thest** /'faəðəst/ or **fur·thest** /'fəðəst/

1 : at or to a great distance in space or time • The dog wandered *far* from home. • These new discoveries will allow us to see *far* into the past. • She lives *far* out in the country. • the *far* distant future • The house is set *far* back from the road. • The deadline is not *far* off/away. • regions *far* to the north • a town not *far* from Chicago • “Where's the park?” “It's not *far* (from here).” • He still lives not *far* from where he was born. • She doesn't like being so *far* (away) from home.

2 : to a great extent • It's *far* [=much, a lot] easier to deal with these problems now. • a *far* better choice • The car is *far* too expensive. • The two sides are still *far* apart. [=a long way apart] • His policies are *far* different from those of his predecessor. • People are now living *far* longer. • “It is a *far, far* better thing that I do than I have ever done . . .” —Charles Dickens, *A Tale of Two Cities* (1859)

3 : to or at a particular distance, point, or degree • Those birds aren't usually seen this *far* north. • They have offices as *far* west as Ohio. • People come to this museum from as *far* away as California. • The word was used as *far* back as the 17th century. • The hills extend *as far as the eye can see*

4 : to an advanced point or extent • These reforms don't go *far* enough. • They've gone about as *far* as they can. • He drove the tent stake *far* [=deep] into the ground. • We've come too *far* to quit now. • We've accomplished a lot, but we still have *far* [=a long way] to go. • She has a lot of talent. If she works hard, she should *go far* [=she should be very successful]

as far as **1** *also so far as* **a** — used in expressions like *as/so far as I know* to say that you think a statement is true

but that there may be something you do not know which makes it untrue • It's safe, *as far as I know*. [=based on what I know, I think it's safe, although it is possible that it is not safe] • The investigation isn't making much progress, *as far as I can see/tell/judge* **b** — used in expressions like *as/so far as (something) goes* and *as/so far as (something) is concerned* to mean “about (something)” or “with regard to (something)” • He has no worries *as far as money is concerned*. [=he has no worries about money] • *As far as the weather is concerned*, we've been having nothing but rain for the past week. **c** — used in expressions like *as/so far as (someone) is concerned* to mean “in someone's opinion” • *As far as I'm concerned* [=in my opinion], everything he says is a lie. • *As far as she's concerned*, he's perfect. **2**

informal : with regard to (something or someone) • He's here. *As far as* [=as for] the others, they'll arrive later. [=the others will arrive later]

by far : by a great extent or degree • Frank was *by far* the best runner. = Frank was the best runner *by far*.

far and away : by a great extent or degree : by far • The col-

lege is *far and away* the best one in the area. • Frank was *far and away* the best runner.

far and wide **1** : in every direction • We searched *far and wide* [=everywhere] for the lost cat. : in many different places : very widely • He's known *far and wide* for his skill as a cook. **2** : distant places • People came *from far and wide* to attend the fair.

far be it from me : it would not be correct or appropriate for me — followed by *to + verb* • *Far be it from me to tell you how to do your job.* [=I should not tell you how to do your job] — often used when you are about to give advice or criticism and you know that you have no real right to say what you are going to say • *Far be it from me to interfere,* but I don't know why you keep dating that guy.

far from : certainly not : not at all • The trip was *far from* a failure. [=the trip was not a failure at all] • He was *far from* (being) friendly. [=he was not at all friendly] • It is *far from* certain that the strike will be settled soon. • The investigation is *far from* complete. • She argues that the new law, *far from* being an aid to small businesses, will actually hurt them. • "Was the movie disappointing?" "Far from it! We had a great time!"

far gone *informal* : in a very bad, weak, or confused condition because of being sick, tired, drunk, etc. • He had been drinking for a couple of hours, so he was pretty *far gone* by then. • She was too *far gone* to understand what we were asking her.

far off : very wrong : very far from being correct • He was not *far off* in his predictions.

few and far between see **1 FEW**

from far and near or from near and far : from distant places and from near places : from many different places • people came *from far and near*

how far **1** : to what extent or degree • She didn't know *how far* to trust him. [=she didn't know how much she could trust him] **2** — used to ask about the distance between places • *How far* is it (from here) to the station, please?

in so far as see **INSOFAR AS**

so far **1** : until the present time : to this point • He has written only two books *so far*. ♦ The phrase *so far, so good* is used to say that something (such as a project or an activity) has proceeded well or without problems until now. • "How's the work on your house going?" "There's a lot more to do, but *so far, so good*." **2** : to a certain point, degree, or distance • Intelligence will only take you *so far* without effort. [=intelligence by itself is not enough for success; effort is also needed]

so far as see **AS FAR AS 1** (above)

thus far : until the present time : so far • *Thus far* the results have been disappointing.

2far *adj*, always used before a noun **farther or further; farthest or furthest**

1 : very distant in space or time • the *far* corners of the world • the *far* horizon • the *far* reaches of outer space • the *far* past **2** — used to refer to the side, end, etc., that is more distant • There is a fishing camp on the *far* side of the lake, but nothing on the near side. • the *far* bank of the river • a table at the *far* end of the room

a far cry from see **2CRY**

the far left : the group of people whose political views are the most liberal • His nomination is opposed by members of *the far left*.

the far right : the group of people whose political views are the most conservative • His nomination is opposed by members of *the far right*.

far-away /'fɑrə,wei/ *adj* : very distant • My grandfather told us tales of *faraway* lands. ♦ If you have a *faraway* look in your eyes, you are not paying attention to what is happening around you; you appear to be thinking about something that is far away. • Don't bother talking to her when she gets that *faraway* look in her eyes.

farce /'fɑs/ *noun*, *pl* **farc-es**

1 a [*count*] : a funny play or movie about ridiculous situations and events **b** [*noncount*] : the style of humor that occurs in a farce • an actor with a talent for *farce*

2 [*count*] *disapproving* : something that is so bad that it is seen as ridiculous • This trial is a *farce*. [=travesty] • The election turned out to be a complete/utter *farce*. [=fiasco]

— **far-ci-cal** /'fɑsɪkəl/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] • a *farcical* [=ludicrous, ridiculous] situation

1fare /'feə/ *verb* **fares; fared; far-ing** [*no obj*] : to do something well or badly • How did you *fare* [=do] on your exam? • The team hasn't *fared* [=done] well in recent weeks.

2fare *noun*, *pl* **fares**

1 [*count*] : the money a person pays to travel on a bus, train, boat, or airplane or in a taxi • I need some coins for the bus *fare*. — see also **AIRFARE, CARFARE**

2 [*count*] : a passenger who pays a fare • The taxi driver picked up his *fares* at the airport.

3 [*noncount*] : a specified kind of food • Less expensive *fare* is available at the restaurant across the street. — sometimes used figuratively to refer to things shown on television, in movies, etc. • Many parents dislike the violent *fare* [=the violent programs/material] on television.

Far East *noun*

the Far East : the countries of eastern and southeastern Asia (such as China, Japan, North Korea, South Korea, and Vietnam) — compare **MIDDLE EAST, NEAR EAST**

1fare-well /'feə,wel/ *interj*, *formal + literary* : **1GOODBYE** • *Farewell*, good friend, until we meet again.

2farewell *noun*, *pl* **-wells** [*count*] *formal + literary*

1 : something that you say to a person who is leaving : **GOODBYE** • She bid/wished me *farewell*. • They said their *farewells* and headed home. • a fond *farewell*

2 : an act of leaving • I will take my *farewell* of this place tomorrow. [=I will leave this place tomorrow]

3farewell /'feə,wel/ *adj*, always used before a noun : done when someone is leaving, ending a career, etc. • The band gave a *farewell* concert. • a *farewell* party/speech/performance

4farewell /'feə,wel/ *verb* **-wells; -welled; -well-ing** [*+ obj*] chiefly *Australia + New Zealand* : to bid farewell to (someone who is leaving) • The retiring teacher was *farewelled* by the whole school at a special assembly.

far-fetched /'fɑə'fetʃt/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : not likely to happen or be true • The movie features a *far-fetched* plot to kidnap the President.

far-flung /'fɑə'flʌŋ/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]

1 : covering a very large area • a *far-flung* [=vast] media empire

2 : located in a very distant place • a *far-flung* trading post in the Arctic

1farm /'fɑəm/ *noun*, *pl* **farms** [*count*]

1 : a piece of land used for growing crops or raising animals • She grew up on a dairy *farm*. • Running a *farm* is hard work. • a vegetable *farm*

2 : an area of water where fish, oysters, etc., are raised • a fish *farm* • an oyster *farm*

buy the farm see **1BUY**

2farm *verb* **farms; farmed; farm-ing** : to use land for growing food or raising animals [*+ obj*] My uncle has been *farm-ing* this land for 60 years. • *farm* 200 acres [*no obj*] My uncle has been *farming* on this land for 60 years.

farm out [*phrasal verb*] **farm (something) out or farm out (something)** : to send out (work) to be done by others • The company decided to *farm out* the job of upgrading their Web site.

farm-er /'fɑəmə/ *noun*, *pl* **-ers** [*count*] : a person who runs a farm • My uncle has been a *farmer* for 60 years. • hog *farmers* • a cotton *farmer*

farm-hand /'fɑəm,hænd/ *noun*, *pl* **-hands** [*count*] : a person who is hired to work on a farm

farm-house /'fɑəm,haus/ *noun*, *pl* **-houses** [*count*] : a house on a farm

farming *noun* [*noncount*] : the job or business of running a farm

farm-land /'fɑəm,lænd/ *noun* [*noncount*] : land used or suitable for farming • 50 acres of rich *farmland*

farm-stead /'fɑəm,sted/ *noun*, *pl* **-steads** [*count*] : a farm with its buildings

farm team *noun*, *pl* ~ **teams** [*count*] *baseball* : a minor-league baseball team that is associated with a major-league team

farm-yard /'fɑəm,jæd/ *noun*, *pl* **-yards** [*count*] : **BARN-YARD**

far-off /'fɑə,ɔ:f/ *adj* : very far away in time or space • tales of *far-off* lands • Some *far-off* day you will thank me.

far-out /'fɑə,aut/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *informal* : very strange or unusual • My sister wears some pretty *far-out* clothes.

far-reaching /'fɑə,ri:tʃɪŋ/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : affecting many people or things : having a wide range or influence • The court issued a *far-reaching* decision. • The theory has *far-reaching* implications for the future of the planet.



far-sight-ed /'fɑːsaɪtəd/ *adj* [more ~; most ~]

1 *chiefly US* : able to see things that are far away more clearly than things that are near • He wears glasses because he is *farsighted*. [= (Brit) *longsighted*] — compare NEARSIGHTED

2 **a** : able to predict what will or might happen in the future • plans made by *farsighted* city leaders **b** : made or done while thinking about what will happen in the future • *farsighted* investments • a *farsighted* plan/approach — opposite SHORTSIGHTED

— **far-sight-ed-ly** *adv* — **far-sight-ed-ness** *noun* [non-count] • She had her eyes tested for *farsightedness*. • the *farsightedness* of city leaders

¹fart /'fɑːt/ *verb* **farts; fart-ed; fart-ing** [no obj] *informal* + *impolite* : to release gas from the anus

fart around *informal* + *impolite* : to waste time : to spend time doing activities that have no serious purpose • Quit *farting around* [=messaging around, fooling around] and finish your work!

²fart *noun, pl farts* [count] *informal* + *impolite*

1 : a release of gas from the anus

2 : an annoying or unpleasant person • a cranky old *fart*

¹far-ther /'fɑːðə/ *adv* : to or at or to a more distant place or time or a more advanced point : FURTHER • drive *farther* north • It's *farther* away than I'd thought. • I tried to read the book, but I got no *farther* [=further] than the first chapter. • You think I don't like you? *Nothing could be farther from the truth*. [=it is completely untrue that I don't like you; I like you very much]

²farther *adj, always used before a noun* : more distant : FURTHER • the *farther* side of town

¹far-thest /'fɑːðəst/ *adv*

1 : to or at the greatest distance in space or time : FURTHEST • He chose the seat *farthest* from the door. • We had a contest to see who could hit a golf ball the *farthest*.

2 : to the most advanced point : FURTHEST • This plan goes *farthest* toward achieving our goal.

3 *chiefly US* : by the greatest degree or extent : MOST, FURTHEST • Of all the paintings, this one is the *farthest* removed from reality.

²farthest *adj, always used before a noun* : most distant in space or time : FURTHEST • the *farthest* frontier • the *farthest* reaches of space — often used figuratively • Food is the *farthest* thing from my mind right now. [=I am not thinking about food at all]

far-thing /'fɑːðɪŋ/ *noun, pl -things* [count] : a former British coin that had a value equal to ¼ of a penny

fas-cia /'feɪʃiə/ *noun, pl -cias* [count]

1 *technical* : a long, thin board that covers the area where a wall joins a roof — called also *fascia board*

2 /'fæʃiə/ *medical* : a sheet of tissue that covers or connects parts inside the body (such as muscles)

3 also *fa-cia* /'feɪʃə/ *Brit* : DASHBOARD

fas-ci-nate /'fæsə,neɪt/ *verb -nates; -nat-ed; -nat-ing* : to cause (someone) to be very interested in something or someone [+ obj] His strange behavior *fascinated* the children. = He *fascinated* the children with his strange behavior. • Her paintings *fascinate* me. = I'm *fascinated* by/with her paintings. • a question that *fascinates* both biologists and anthropologists [no obj] Her paintings never fail to *fascinate*.

— **fas-ci-na-tion** /'fæsə'neɪʃən/ *noun* [noncount] the children's growing *fascination* with his strange behavior [=their increasing strong interest in his behavior] • I've studied her paintings with *fascination*. [=a strong desire to look at and think about them] [singular] Her paintings have/hold a real *fascination* for me. [=they interest me deeply]

fas-ci-nat-ing /'fæsə,neɪtɪŋ/ *adj* [more ~; most ~] : very interesting or appealing • a *fascinating* book • Her paintings are *fascinating*. • It's *fascinating* (to watch) how a child's language skills develop.

— **fas-ci-nat-ing-ly** *adv*

fas-cism /'fæ,ʃɪzəm/ *noun* [noncount]

1 or *Fas-cism* : a way of organizing a society in which a government ruled by a dictator controls the lives of the people and in which people are not allowed to disagree with the government • the rise of *Fascism* in Europe before World War II

2 : very harsh control or authority • corporate *fascism*

— **fas-cist** or **Fas-cist** /'fæʃɪst/ *noun, pl -cists* [count] • notorious *fascists* — **fascist** or **Fascist** *adj* • a *Fascist* state

— **fas-cist-ic** or **Fas-cist-ic** /'fæʃɪstɪk/ *adj* [more ~; most ~] • a *fascistic* organization

¹fash-ion /'fæʃən/ *noun, pl -ions*

1 **a** : a popular way of dressing during a particular time or among a particular group of people [count] Jewelry and clothing *fashions* vary with the season. [noncount] Long, full skirts were (all/very much) the *fashion* in those days. • *fashion-conscious* shoppers [=shoppers who know what styles are popular] • Short skirts are currently *in fashion*. [=are currently popular] • Short skirts have come back *into fashion*. • Those ruffled blouses went *out of fashion* years ago. **b** [noncount] : the business of creating and selling clothes in new styles • the world of *fashion* — often used before another noun • the *fashion* industry • She reads all the *fashion* magazines. [=magazines about the newest fashions] • We attended a *fashion show*. [=a show at which people who design clothes show their new designs] — see also HIGH FASHION **c fashions** [plural] : clothes that are popular • She always wears the latest *fashions*.

2 : a style, way of behaving, etc., that is popular in a particular time and place [count] Literary *fashions* have changed in recent years. [noncount] Action movies are (all) the *fashion* in Hollywood these days. = Action movies are *in fashion* in Hollywood these days. • Her theories have fallen/gone *out of fashion*. [=are no longer popular]

3 : a specified way of acting or behaving — usually used after *in* [singular] His friends noticed that he was behaving *in* a strange *fashion*. [=behaving strangely] • We started the meeting *in* an orderly *fashion*. [noncount] We all lined up *in* orderly *fashion*.

after a fashion : to a slight or minor degree : SOMEWHAT • I can play the piano *after a fashion*, but I can't play anything difficult.

²fashion *verb -ions; -ioned; -ion-ing* [+ obj] : to form (something) into something else • Students *fashioned* the clay into small figures. : to make (something) from something else • figures *fashioned* [=formed] from clay • She used the scraps of fabric to *fashion* a little doll's dress. • a table *fashioned* out of an old door

fash-ion-able /'fæʃənəbəl/ *adj* [more ~; most ~]

1 : currently popular • *fashionable* clothes [=clothes that are popular; clothes that are in fashion] • She wore a sleek black dress and *fashionable* [=stylish] shoes. • *fashionable* cars • a *fashionable* café • It isn't *fashionable* to express such an opinion these days.

2 : dressing and acting in a way that is currently popular • *fashionable* people who know all the right restaurants

— **fash-ion-ably** /'fæʃənəbli/ *adv* • She was *fashionably* dressed, as usual. • He arrived at the party *fashionably* late. [=he arrived at the party slightly late, which is the fashionable thing to do]

fash-ion-is-ta /'fæʃə'niːstə/ *noun, pl -tas* [count] *informal* : a person who designs, sells, or is very interested in clothing fashions

fashion plate *noun, pl ~ plates* [count] : a person who dresses in the current fashions : a fashionable person ♦ The term *fashion plate* is often used in a disapproving way to describe someone who cares too much about fashion.

¹fast /'fæst, Brit 'fɑːst/ *adj* **fast-er; -est**

1 [more ~; most ~] **a** : moving or able to move quickly • She's a very *fast* runner. • a *fast* car • a *fast* pitch • maintaining a *fast* [=quick] pace • blazingly/blindingly *fast* **b** : happening quickly : taking a short amount of time • a *fast* race • We're off to a *fast* start. • We're now experiencing a *faster* rate of inflation. • I'd like to take a *fast* [= (more commonly) quick] look at my records. **c** : operating quickly • a *fast* computer **d** : doing something or able to do something quickly • a *fast* learner **e** : allowing movement at a great speed • a *fast* road • We took the *faster* route. — see also FAST LANE, FAST TRACK

2 *of a clock or watch* : showing a time that is later than the correct time • My watch is (ten minutes) *fast*.

3 *photography* : allowing photographs to be taken very quickly or when there is very little light • *fast* film

4 *informal* **a** : tricky and unfair • Be careful that he doesn't *pull a fast one* on you. [=that he doesn't trick or deceive you]

b : earned or gotten quickly and often in a dishonest way • She's always looking to make a *fast* buck. • *fast* money **c** : quick and not safe to trust • He gave us a lot of *fast* talk about how he was going to solve all our problems. — see also FAST-TALK

5 *old-fashioned* + *humorous* **a** : actively seeking excitement or pleasure : WILD • He runs with a pretty *fast* crowd. • *fast* living **b of women** : very willing to have sex • a typical West-

ern filled with outlaws, gamblers, and *fast* women
6 a : placed, tied, or attached in a way that is not easily moved • Make the rope *fast* [=tie the rope securely] to the anchor. **b** : closed tightly • Make sure the door is *fast*. [= (more commonly) *shut fast*] **c** : impossible to change — used in the phrase *hard and fast* • There are no *hard and fast* rules to be followed when you plan a vacation. [=there are many ways to plan a vacation] **d** : not likely to fade • *fast* colors
7 : very loyal or faithful • They became *fast friends*.

fast and furious : in a very fast and forceful way : with one thing following another very quickly ✧ The phrase *fast and furious* is used both as an adjective and as an adverb. • The action was *fast and furious*. • The questions were coming at me *fast and furious*. • The jokes were flying *fast and furious*.

play fast and loose see ¹PLAY

²fast *adv* **faster; -est**

1 : with great speed • The boss expects this to be done this afternoon, so you'd better work *fast*. • You're driving too *fast*! • He ran as *fast* as he could. • a *fast-paced* story : in a very short time : very quickly • This is *fast* becoming a national problem. • You need to act *fast* to take advantage of this offer. • species that are *fast* disappearing = species that are disappearing *fast* • I don't know what caused the accident. It all happened so *fast*. — opposite SLOW, SLOWLY

2 a : in a quick and intelligent way • She's a woman who can think *fast* in a crisis. • You catch on *fast*. **b** : quickly and in a way that is meant to deceive or persuade someone • He's going to have to talk *fast* to get himself out of this mess. — see also FAST-TALK

3 : in a way that is not easily moved or changed • The window was stuck *fast*. • She held *fast* to her belief in justice. • We must stand *fast* and not surrender!

fast and furious see ¹FAST

fast asleep see ASLEEP

going/getting nowhere fast *informal* ✧ To be *going/getting nowhere fast* is to be failing to make progress or to produce a desired result. • The plan for a new stadium is *going nowhere fast*.

not so fast *informal* — used in speech to say that you disagree with what someone has said or to tell someone to stop or slow down • “This proves they're wrong.” “*Not so fast*. There's other evidence to consider.” • “The discussion is closed.” “*Not so fast*. I have a few more things to say.”

³fast *verb* **fasts; fast-ed; fast-ing** [*no obj*] : to eat no food for a period of time • She always *fasts* on Yom Kippur. • Patients must *fast* for six hours before having the procedure.

— **fasting** *noun* [*noncount*] • periods of *fasting* • a time of *fasting* and prayer

⁴fast *noun, pl* **fasts** [*count*] : a period of time when you do not eat any food : a time of fasting • He went on a *fast* [=he ate nothing] for several days. • We broke our *fast* just after sunset. • observing a *fast day* [=a day on which people do not eat any food because of their religion]

fast-ball /'fæst,bɑ:l, Brit 'fɑ:st,bɑ:l/ *noun, pl* **-balls** [*count*] *baseball* : a pitch that is thrown at full speed : a very fast pitch • He struck him out with a *fastball*.

fast break *noun, pl* ~ **breaks** [*count*] *basketball* : a quick movement toward the net in an attempt to score before the opposing players can reach their defensive positions

fas·ten /'fæsn, Brit 'fɑ:sn/ *verb* **fas·tens; fas·tened; fas·ten-ing**

1 a [*+ obj*] : to attach (something) or join (two things or two parts of something) especially by using a pin, nail, etc. • *fastening* clothes on/onto a clothesline • He *fastened* the dog's leash to a post and went into the store. • two boards *fastened* together by/with nails • a decorative clasp that could be used to *fasten* a cape or cloak **b** [*no obj*] *of parts of something* : to become attached or joined • a shoe that *fastens* with a buckle • This dress *fastens* in the back.

2 a [*+ obj*] : to put something in a position or location in such a way that it will not move • *Fasten* your seat belt. • She twisted her hair into a bun and *fastened* it with bobby pins. • Make sure the lid is tightly *fastened*. **b** : to close and lock (something, such as a window or door) [*+ obj*] Make sure that the doors and windows are all (securely) *fastened*. [*no obj*] The lock was so damaged it wouldn't *fasten*.

3 : to grip and hold something with (your hand, teeth, etc.) [*+ obj*] He *fastened* his hands on/around my arm and wouldn't let go. • The dog *fastened* its teeth on my sleeve. [*no obj*] His hands *fastened* on/around my arm.

fasten on [*phrasal verb*] *fasten (something) on (something)*

or fasten on (something) : to direct (something, such as your eyes or attention) to (something) • They *fastened* their eyes *on* the distant ship. [=they looked at it steadily] • She *fastened* her attention *on* the problem. [=she gave all her attention to the problem] • They had *fastened* the blame *on* the wrong man. [=they had blamed the wrong man] • She *fastened* [=pinned] (all) her hopes *on* getting the job.

fasten onto [*phrasal verb*] *fasten onto (something)* : to grip and tightly hold (something) • The stranger *fastened onto* my arm and wouldn't let go. — often used figuratively • Once he *fastens onto* a subject he just won't let it drop.

— **fas·ten·er** /'fæsnə, Brit 'fɑ:snə/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] • windows held shut by rusty *fasteners*

fas·ten-ing /'fæsnɪŋ, Brit 'fɑ:snɪŋ/ *noun, pl* **-ings** [*count*] : something that fastens one thing to another thing • a coat with button and loop *fastenings*

fast food *noun, pl* ~ **foods** : food that is prepared and served quickly : food from a restaurant that makes and serves food very quickly [*noncount*] They eat a lot of *fast food*. [*count*] Most *fast foods* are high in calories.

— **fast-food** *adj, always used before a noun* • a *fast-food* restaurant

¹fast-for-ward /'fæst'fɔrwəd, Brit 'fɑ:st'fɔ:wəd/ *noun* [*non-count*]

1 : a function that causes a recording (such as a videotape) to go forward at a speed that is faster than normal • Hit the *fast-forward* button. — opposite ²REWIND

2 : a state in which something is quickly developing or progressing • Taking those classes put her career in *fast-forward*.

²fast-forward *verb* **-wards; -ward-ed; -ward-ing**

1 [*+ obj*] : to cause (a recording) to go forward at a speed that is faster than normal • We *fast-forwarded* the tape to get to the last song. — opposite ¹REWIND

2 [*no obj*] : to move forward through time quickly • He wished he could *fast-forward* to the future, when he would no longer be a student.

fas·tid-i-ous /fæ'stɪdijəs/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]

1 : very careful about how you do something • He is *fastidious* about keeping the house clean. • a *fastidious* dresser/scholar

2 : liking few things : hard to please • a *fastidious* eater/diner

3 : wanting to always be clean, neat, etc. • She was too *fastidious* to do anything that might get her dirty.

— **fas·tid-i-ous-ly** *adv* • a *fastidiously* researched book • *fastidiously* dressed — **fas·tid-i-ous-ness** *noun* [*noncount*] • She's known for her *fastidiousness* as a scholar.

fast lane *noun, pl* ~ **lanes**

1 [*count*] : a section of a highway for cars that are traveling at high speeds • I pulled into the *fast lane* to pass the truck.

2 [*singular*] : a way of living that makes you very busy or that is full of excitement and often danger — usually used in the phrase *life in the fast lane* • He likes to live *life in the fast lane*, going from one wild party to the next.

fast-ness /'fæstnəs, Brit 'fɑ:stnəs/ *noun, pl* **-ness-es** [*count*] *literary* : a place that is difficult to get to or that can be easily defended if it is attacked • a remote mountain *fast-ness* [=stronghold, fortress]

fast-talk /'fæst,tɔ:k, Brit 'fɑ:st,tɔ:k/ *verb* **-talks; -talked; -talk-ing** [*+ obj*] *informal* : to influence or persuade (someone) by talking quickly in a confident and often dishonest way • The salesperson *fast-talked* him into buying the car for more than it was worth. • He *fast-talked* the old woman out of a large piece of her property. — see also ¹FAST 4c

— **fast-talk-er** *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] — **fast-talking** *adj* • a *fast-talking* salesperson

fast track *noun* [*singular*] : a process or way of proceeding that produces a desired result quickly • The proposed law is *on a fast track* to/for approval. [=it is being given special treatment so that it will be approved quickly] • She hoped that her college degree would put her *on the fast track* to success in the business world. [=would make it possible for her to succeed quickly in the business world]

— **fast-track** /'fæst,træk, Brit 'fɑ:st,træk/ *verb* **-tracks; -tracked; -track-ing** [*+ obj*] • The proposed new law is being *fast-tracked* for approval. — **fast-track** *adj, always used before a noun* • *fast-track* approval • *fast-track* careers

¹fat /'fæt/ *adj* **fat-ter; fat-test**

1 : having a lot of extra flesh on your body : having a lot of body fat • The dog is getting *fat* because you feed him too much. • a cute, *fat* baby • I can't believe I've let myself get so *fat*. • a movie that has a lot of *fat jokes* [=jokes about fat people] ✧ *Fat* can be an insulting word when it is used to de-



scribe a person. • She called him a big, *fat* slob. • She's gotten really *fat*. [= (more politely) *big*, *heavy*] — opposite ¹THIN

2 : having a full, rounded form • a *fat* belly • a *fat*, juicy peach ✧ A *fat lip* is a lip that is swollen because of injury, especially from being punched. • He threatened to give me a *fat lip*. [=he threatened to punch me]

3 : unusually wide or thick • a *fat* book of poems • a *fat* envelope • a truck with *fat* tires

4 informal : containing, providing, or costing a large amount of money • a *fat* bank account • He signed a *fat* contract. • The company offered her a *fat* salary. • a *fat* check [=a check for a large amount of money] • He had to pay a *fat* [=big] fine.

5 informal + disapproving : successful or wealthy • The company grew *fat* on profits during the war.

6 baseball : easy to hit • a *fat* pitch right down the middle of the plate

big fat — used for emphasis • That's a *big fat* lie! • Come here and give me a *big fat* kiss. • He came home with a *big fat* F [=a failing grade] on his report card.

fat chance see ¹CHANCE

it ain't over until/till the fat lady sings see LADY

— **fat-ness** noun [noncount] • body *fatness*

²fat noun, pl fats

1 [noncount] : the soft flesh on the bodies of people and animals that helps keep the body warm and is used to store energy • people with excess body *fat* • a diet and exercise program to help you gain muscle and lose *fat* • exercises that **burn fat** = **fat-burning** exercises [=exercises that make your body use the fat it has stored] — see also BABY FAT

2 : an oily solid or liquid substance in food [noncount] Nuts contain a lot of *fat*. • milk/bacon *fat* • Trim the *fat* from the meat before you cook it. • foods that are high in *fat* = foods with a high *fat* content • reducing dietary *fat* • a diet low in *fat* [=a low-fat diet] [count] a diet low in *fats* • saturated *fats* • *fats* like butter and olive oil — see also DEEP FAT

3 [noncount] : an amount that is more than what is usual or needed : EXCESS • trim the *fat* off/from the budget

chew the fat see ¹CHEW

live off/on the fat of the land ✧ To *live off/on the fat of the land* is to live very well, enjoying the best things that are available without having to work hard to get those things. • They retired several years ago and have been *living on the fat of the land* ever since.

fa·tal /'fɜːtəl/ adj [more ~; most ~]

1 : causing death • a *fatal* accident • a disease that is often *fatal* • a *fatal* blow • a chemical that can be *fatal* to birds

synonyms see ¹DEADLY

2 : causing ruin or failure • She made a *fatal* mistake/error. • The plan contained a *fatal* flaw. [=a flaw that would cause it to fail] • a *fatal* weakness

— **fa·tal·ly** adv • *fatally* shot/wounded

fa·tal·ism /'fɜːtəlɪzəm/ noun [noncount] : the belief that what will happen has already been decided and cannot be changed • Many people seem to have developed a sense of *fatalism* about the war.

— **fa·tal·ist** /'fɜːtəlɪst/ noun, pl -ists [count] • He's a *fatalist* about the future. — **fa·tal·is·tic** /'fɜːtəlɪstɪk/ adj [more ~; most ~] • a *fatalistic* attitude/philosophy — **fa·tal·is·ti·cal·ly** /'fɜːtəlɪstɪkli/ adv

fa·tal·i·ty /fɜː'tæləti/ noun, pl -ties

1 [count] : a death that results from a disaster, accident, etc. • The car crash caused one *fatality* and several serious injuries. • war *fatalities*

2 [noncount] : a tendency to result in death • a disease with a high *fatality rate* [=a disease that frequently causes death]

fat cat noun, pl ~ cats [count] informal + disapproving : an important, wealthy, or powerful person • The best seats in the theater were reserved for the *fat cats*. • political *fat cats*

— **fat-cat** adj, always used before a noun • *fat-cat* business executives

fat city noun [noncount] US slang : a very comfortable condition or situation in life • He thinks he's going to win the lottery, and then he'll be in *fat city*.

fate /'feɪt/ noun, pl fates

1 [noncount] : a power that is believed to control what happens in the future • They thought they would never see each other again, but *fate* brought them back together. • a surprising turn/twist/quirk of *fate*

2 [count] : the things that will happen to a person or thing : the future that someone or something will have • The boy disappeared, and his *fate* was unknown [=no one knew what

happened to him] for many years. • Exile was his *fate*. = It was his *fate* to be exiled. [=he was exiled] • The two companies suffered a common *fate*. [=the same thing happened to both companies] • One company went bankrupt, and a similar *fate* befell the other. • her sad/unhappy/tragic *fate* • Congress will decide the bill's *fate* tomorrow. [=will vote to accept or reject the bill tomorrow] • Her *fate was sealed* by the marriage arrangement made in her youth. • She regarded poverty as *a fate worse than death* [=as worse than dying] • Like his father, he *met his fate* [=he died] on the battlefield.

synonyms see DESTINY

tempt fate see TEMPT

fat·ed /'feɪtəd/ adj : certain to do or be something • The two of them seemed *fated* [=destined] for each other. • He felt he was *fated* to be famous. ; especially : certain to die or suffer in a particular way • a kingdom *fated* [=doomed] to collapse • a character *fated* to die young — see also ILL-FATED

fat farm noun, pl ~ farms [count] chiefly US, informal : a place where people go to lose weight by eating a special diet, exercising, etc.

fate·ful /'feɪtʃəl/ adj : having important results • She made the *fateful* [=momentous] decision to go back home to face her mother. • His life changed on that *fateful* November evening. : producing a serious and usually bad result • Hundreds perished on that *fateful* day. • Her campaign took a *fateful* turn.

— **fate·ful·ly** adv

fat-free adj : containing no fat • The cereal is *fat-free*. • *fat-free* milk

fat·head /'fæt,hed/ noun, pl -heads [count] informal : a stupid person • Don't be such a *fathead*!

— **fat·head·ed** /'fæt'hedəd/ adj [more ~; most ~] • a *fat-headed* [=stupid] idea/person — **fat·head·ed·ness** noun [noncount]

¹fa·ther /'fɑːðər/ noun, pl -thers [count]

1 : a male parent • He became a *father* when he was 30. • He's the *father* of three small children. • He has been like a *father* to me. • the foal's *father* • He's a *single father* [=a father who does not have a wife or partner] ✧ The expression *like father, like son* means that a son is like his father in character, behavior, etc. • "He's very stubborn." "Well, *like father, like son*." [=his father is also stubborn] — see also BIRTH FATHER, GRANDFATHER, STEPFATHER

2 : a man who is thought of as being like a father • He was a *father* to me after my own father died.

3 Father : GOD 1 • heavenly *Father* — see also OUR FATHER

4 formal : a person who was in someone's family in past times : ANCESTOR, FOREFATHER — usually plural • She inherited the land on which her *fathers* toiled. • the faith of his *fathers*

5 : a man who invents or begins something — usually singular • the *father* of modern science • George Washington is the *father* of our country. — see also FOUNDING FATHER

6 old-fashioned : an older man who is one of the leaders of a city, town, etc. — usually plural • Will the city *fathers* agree to it?

7 : a priest especially in the Roman Catholic Church or the Orthodox Church — used especially as a title or as a form of address • *Father* Fitzgerald • Good morning, *Father*. — see also HOLY FATHER

— **fa·ther·hood** /'fɑːðər,hud/ noun [noncount] • a young man who didn't yet seem ready for *fatherhood* — **fa·ther·less** /'fɑːðərləs/ adj • a *fatherless* child

²father verb -thers; -thered; -ther-ing [+ obj]

1 : to become the father of (a child) : to make a woman pregnant so that she gives birth to (a child) • He *fathered* three children.

2 of a man : to invent, create, or produce (something) • He was praised for *fathering* a plan to improve the city's schools.

Father Christmas noun [singular] Brit : SANTA CLAUS

father figure noun, pl ~ -ures [count] : an older man who is respected and admired like a father • The coach was a stern, wise *father figure* to his players.

fa·ther-in-law /'fɑːðər,ɪn,lɔː/ noun, pl fa·thers-in-law /'fɑːðər,zən,lɔː/ [count] : the father of your husband or wife

fa·ther·land /'fɑːðər,lænd/ noun, pl -lands [count] : the country where you were born or where your family came from — usually singular • He fought to protect his *fatherland*. — often used with *the* • Her grandmother told them stories of *the fatherland*. ✧ *Fatherland* can refer to any country, but it is often associated especially with Germany. — compare MOTHERLAND

fa·ther·ly /'fɑ:ðəli/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : of a father • *fatherly* [=paternal] responsibilities : resembling a father • a *fatherly* old man : showing the affection or concern of a father • *fatherly* advice • He took a *fatherly* interest in the careers of younger writers.

Father's Day *noun*, *pl* ~ **Days** [*count*, *noncount*] : the third Sunday in June treated as a special day for honoring fathers

¹**fath·om** /'fæðəm/ *noun*, *pl* -oms [*count*] : a unit of length equal to six feet (about 1.8 meters) used especially for measuring the depth of water • The water here is five *fathoms* deep.

²**fathom** *verb* -oms; -omed; -om-ing [+ *obj*] : to understand the reason for (something) • I couldn't *fathom* why she made such a foolish decision. = I couldn't *fathom* her reasons for making such a foolish decision. • (Brit) I couldn't *fathom out* her reasons. — see also UNFATHOMABLE

¹**fa·tigue** /fə'ti:g/ *noun*, *pl* -tissues

1 [*noncount*] : the state of being very tired : extreme weariness • We were overcome by *fatigue* after the long journey. • The drug's side effects include headache and *fatigue*.

2 *fatigues* [*plural*] : the uniform that soldiers wear when they are doing physical work • soldiers wearing combat boots and *fatigues* • army/military *fatigues*

3 [*noncount*] *technical* : the tendency of a material (such as metal) to break after being bent or moved many times • The cracks in the engine were caused by metal *fatigue*.

²**fatigue** *verb* -tissues; -tigated; -tigu-ing [+ *obj*] : to make (someone) tired — usually used as (be) *fatigued* • We were *fatigued* by the long journey.

— **fatigued** *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] • He always left work feeling somewhat *fatigued*. [=tired] • mentally *fatigued*

— **fatiguing** *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] • a very *fatiguing* [=tiring] journey • an emotionally *fatiguing* experience

fat·so /'fætsoʊ/ *noun*, *pl* -soes [*count*] *informal* + *offensive* : a fat person

fat·ten /'fætn/ *verb* -tens; -tened; -ten-ing /'fætnɪŋ/

1 [+ *obj*] : to make (someone or something) fat • *fatten* (up) pigs for slaughter

2 [*no obj*] : to become fat — usually + *up* • Bears need to *fatten up* for the winter.

— **fattening** *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] • Sauces made with cream are very *fattening*. [=they are very likely to make people fat] • I'm trying to avoid *fattening* foods.

¹**fat·ty** /'fæti/ *adj* **fat·ti·er**; -est [*more* ~; *most* ~] : containing fat and especially a large amount of fat • a rather *fatty* steak • *fatty* tissue • I try to avoid *fatty* foods.

— **fat·ti·ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

²**fatty** *noun*, *pl* -ties [*count*] *informal* + *offensive* : a fat person

fatty acid *noun*, *pl* ~ **acids** [*count*] : an acid that is naturally in fats and various oils

Fat Tuesday *noun* [*noncount*] *US* : SHROVE TUESDAY

fa·tu·ity /fə'tu:wəti, Brit fə'tju:əti/ *noun*, *pl* -it-ies *formal*

1 [*noncount*] : a foolish or stupid quality : a fatuous quality • the *fatuity* of these policies

2 [*count*] : something foolish or stupid : a fatuous remark • politicians exchanging *fatuities* about the need for campaign reform

fat·u·ous /'fæfjuwəs/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : foolish or stupid • *fatuous* remarks • *fatuous* notions

— **fat·u·ous·ly** *adv* — **fat·u·ous·ness** *noun* [*noncount*] • the *fatuousness* of the remarks

fau·cet /'fɑ:sət/ *noun*, *pl* -cets [*count*] *US* : a device that is used to control the flow of water from a pipe • turn on/off the *faucet* [=tap] — see pictures at BATHROOM, KITCHEN

¹**fault** /'fɑ:lt/ *noun*, *pl* faults

1 [*count*] **a** : a bad quality or part of someone's character : a weakness in character • He loved her despite her many *faults*. [=failings] • Lack of courage is his worst *fault*. • In spite of her *faults*, she's a loyal friend. = For all her *faults*, she's a loyal friend. **b** : a problem or bad part that prevents something from being perfect : a flaw or defect • We discussed the book's strengths and *faults*. [=weaknesses] • If the book has a *fault*, it's that it's too long.

2 [*noncount*] : responsibility for a problem, mistake, bad situation, etc. • The accident was not her *fault*. [=she did not cause the accident; she should not be blamed for the accident] • It's all my *fault*. [=I am responsible] • It's your own *fault* you missed that bus. • Through no *fault* of his own, he won't be able to attend the meeting.

3 [*count*] *tennis* : a mistake that results in a bad serve • She

committed too many *faults* to win the match. — see also DOUBLE FAULT

4 [*count*] *geology* : a break in the Earth's crust • Frequent earthquakes have occurred along the San Andreas *Fault*.

at fault : deserving blame for something bad : RESPONSIBLE • She's not *at fault* for the accident. • It will be difficult to determine who's really *at fault*.

find fault see ¹FIND

to a fault : to a great or excessive degree • generous *to a fault* [=very generous or too generous] • honest *to a fault*

— **fault·less** /'fɑ:ltləs/ *adj* • a *faultless* [=perfect, flawless] performance — **fault·less·ly** *adv* • She performed *faultlessly*.

— **fault·less·ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

²**fault** *verb* faults; fault-ed; fault-ing [+ *obj*]

1 : to criticize (something) • One critic *faulted* the book as (being) too long.

2 : to blame or criticize (someone) • The truck driver was *faulted* for the accident. • Many have *faulted* her for not acting sooner. • I can't *fault* him for trying to protect his family.

fault·find·er /'fɑ:lt,faində/ *noun*, *pl* -ers [*count*] : a person who criticizes someone or something often in a way that is not fair or reasonable • *Faultfinders* were quick to point out inconsistencies in the study. — see also *find fault* at ¹FIND

— **fault·find·ing** /'fɑ:lt,faindɪŋ/ *noun* [*noncount*] • constant *faultfinding* — **fault·find·ing** *adj* • a *faultfinding* analysis

faulty /'fɑ:lti/ *adj* **fault·i·er**; -est [*also more* ~; *most* ~] : having a mistake, fault, or weakness : IMPERFECT • a *faulty* argument • a *faulty* design • The report is based on *faulty* [=inaccurate] statistics.

— **fault·i·ly** /'fɑ:ltəli/ *adv* • *faultily* designed parts — **fault·i·ness** /'fɑ:ltinəs/ *noun* [*noncount*] • the *faultiness* of the design

faun /'fɑ:n/ *noun*, *pl* fauns [*count*] : a creature in Roman mythology that is part human and part goat

fau·na /'fɑ:nə/ *noun*, *pl* **fau·nas** also **fau·nae** /'fɑ:,ni:/ *biology* : all the animals that live in a particular area, time period, or environment [*noncount*] studying the diverse *fauna* of the island • aquatic *fauna* • prehistoric *fauna* [*count*] studying the *faunas* of different islands — compare FLORA

— **fau·nal** /'fɑ:nəl/ *adj* • *faunal* diversity

faux pas /'fou,pɑ:/ *noun*, *pl* **faux pas** /'fou,pɑ:z/ [*count*] : an embarrassing social mistake • Arriving too early would be a serious/major *faux pas*. • making/committing a *faux pas*

fa·va bean /'fɑ:və-/ *noun*, *pl* ~ **beans** [*count*] *chiefly US* : a large, flat, pale green seed that is eaten as a vegetable — called also (*chiefly Brit*) *broad bean*

fave /'feiv/ *noun*, *pl* **faves** [*count*] *informal* : FAVORITE 1 • I like all the actors on the show, but he's my *fave*.

— **fave** *adj*, always used before a noun • my *fave* actor

¹**fa·vor** (US) or *Brit* **fa·vour** /'feivə/ *noun*, *pl* -vors

1 [*count*] : a kind or helpful act that you do for someone • do/grant a friend a *favor* = do a *favor* for a friend = grant a *favor* to a friend • Can I ask you (for) a *favor*? • I drove her to the airport because I owed her a *favor*. • She's willing to help you but only as a *favor* to me. • I'm here as a (special) *favor* to my sister. • Don't do me any *favours*. I don't need your help. • I've learned to be grateful for small *favours*. • He treats them well, and they *return the favor*. [=they also treat him well] • *Do me a favor* [=do what I want you to do; do what you should do] and get home on time for once. • You can *do yourself a favor* [=you can make things easier for yourself] by arriving early at the airport. • The company made campaign donations in exchange/return for *political favours*. [=political acts/decisions that helped the company] • He was arrested for soliciting *sexual favours* [=sex acts done in exchange for something, such as money] from a prostitute.

2 [*noncount*] **a** : approval, support, or popularity • Her ideas have found/gained *favor* with many young people. [=many young people like/support her ideas] • He's trying to earn the boss's *favor* by working late. • Her theories have lost *favor*. = Her theories have fallen from *favor*. = Her theories are no longer *in favor*. = Her theories are now *out of favor*. [=they are no longer popular] • a style that has come *into favor* [=become popular] • The committee *looks with favor on* the project. [=the committee regards the project favorably; the committee likes and approves of the project] **b** : preference for one person, group, etc., over another • The judge showed *favor* for/toward the defendant. • The students naturally showed *favor* toward their own school's team.

3 [*count*] *US* : a small gift given to the people who come to a party : PARTY FAVOR • Small boxes of candy were given out as *favours* at the wedding.

court someone's favor or court favor with someone see

²COURT

curry favor see ²CURRY

in favor of **1** : wanting or approving of (something) • All *in favor of* (having) a party [=everyone who wants to have a party], raise your hands. • Not surprisingly, most voters are *in favor of* the tax cuts. • a politician who is *in favor of* the death penalty **2** : in a way that tries to persuade people to support (something) • He argued *in favor of* the tax cuts. [=he argued for the tax cuts] **3** : choosing (something) instead of something else : preferring (something) • She turned down the scholarship *in favor of* a pro career. • The original proposal was rejected *in favor of* a new design. **4** : in support of (someone) : in a way that helps or benefits (someone) • The judge ruled *in favor of* the defendant.

in someone's favor **1** : in support of (someone) : in a way that helps or benefits (someone) • We hope the final decision will be *in our favor*. • The judge ruled *in our favor*. **2** : in a state of being liked or approved of by (someone) • She did extra work to get back *in the teacher's favor*.

odds are in favor ♦ If the *odds are in your favor*, you are likely to win or succeed. • We don't know what the decision will be, but we think *the odds are in our favor*. ♦ If the *odds are in favor of something*, that thing is likely to happen. • *The odds are in favor of* a major storm this weekend.

²**favor** (US) or Brit **favour** verb -vors; -vored; -vor-ing [+obj]

1 a : to prefer (someone) especially in an unfair way : to show that you like or approve of (someone) more than others • The teacher clearly *favours* you. • He claims that his parents *favor* his sister (over him). **b** : to approve of or support (something) • Most voters *favor* these tax cuts. • Her father *favored* the idea of her going to law school. **c** : to regard (someone or something) as most likely to succeed or win • They won the championship last year, and most forecasters *favor* them to win again this year.

2 formal : to give something to (someone) : to present (someone) *with* something • The author *favored* us *with* a copy [=gave us a copy] of his latest book. • She will now *favor* us *with* a song. [=she will now sing or play a song for us] • He did not *favor* us *with* a reply. [=he did not reply to us]

3 : to treat (an injured leg, foot, etc.) gently or carefully • It was obvious that she was *favoring* her left leg. [=she was walking carefully in a way that showed that her left leg was injured]

4 formal : to make (something) possible or easy : to help (something) to succeed • Darkness *favored* the attack. • The weather *favored* our plans for a picnic.

5 : to look like (a parent or other relative) • He *favours* [=resembles] his mother.

fa-vor-able (US) or Brit **fa-vour-able** /'feivərəbəl/ adj [more ~; most ~]

1 a : showing approval • The new play got many *favorable* reviews. • He was given a *favorable* recommendation. **b** : expressing approval : giving or providing what is desired • They gave a *favorable* answer to our request. [=they said they would grant our request] **c** : giving a result that helps, benefits, or shows approval of someone • a *favorable* comparison = a comparison *favorable* to someone

2 : producing feelings of approval • She made a very *favorable* [=good] impression on her future colleagues.

3 a : tending to help : tending to produce a desired result • a *favorable* wind • The plants grow rapidly under *favorable* [=advantageous] conditions. **b** : showing that a desired result is likely • Early test results were *favorable*.

— **fa-vor-ably** (US) or Brit **fa-vour-ably** /'feivərəbli/ adv • The play was *favorably* reviewed. • I was very *favorably* impressed by the candidate. • They responded *favorably* to our request. • The wine compares *favorably* with some that are far more expensive. • The patient responded *favorably* [=well] to the medicine.

fa-vored (US) or Brit **fa-voured** /'feivəd/ adj [more ~; most ~]

1 : given special advantages over others • She enjoys a *fa-vored* position in the company. : preferred over others • a *fa-vored* location

2 : considered most likely to win • The team is heavily *fa-vored* to win the championship.

¹**fa-vor-ite** (US) or Brit **fa-vour-ite** /'feivrət/ adj, always used before a noun : most liked • Red is my *favorite* color. [=red is the color I like most] • What's your *favorite* movie?

²**favorite** (US) or Brit **favourite** noun, pl -ites [count]

1 : a person or a thing that is liked more than others : a favorite person or thing • Of all his books, do you have a *favorite*? • She's always been the teacher's *favorite*. [=pet] • That movie is my *favorite*. • That movie is a great *favorite* with audiences everywhere.

2 : a person, team, etc., that is considered most likely to win • He's the (heavy/clear) *favorite* in the election. = He's the (heavy/clear) *favorite* to win the election. • She always bets (on) the *favorite* [=bets for the horse that is favored to win] when she goes to the races.

favorite son noun, pl ~ sons [count] : a well-known man (such as a political candidate or a celebrity) who is very popular in the area where he lives now or where he lived as a child • an athlete who is one of New York's *favorite sons*

fa-vor-it-ism (US) or Brit **fa-vour-it-ism** /'feivrətɪzəm/ noun [noncount] : the unfair practice of treating some people better than others • He accused the teacher of showing *favoritism* in assigning grades. • political *favoritism*

¹**fawn** /'fa:n/ verb **fawns; fawned; fawn-ing** [no obj] *disapproving* : to try to get the approval of an important or powerful person by giving that person praise, special attention, etc. • a sports star surrounded by *fawning* fans — usually + *over* or *on* • The waiters were *fawning* (all) *over* the celebrity. • She doesn't seem to mind being *fawned on* by her fans.

²**fawn** noun, pl **fawns**

1 [count] : a young deer; *especially* : a deer that is less than a year old

2 [noncount] : a light brown color : TAN

¹**fax** /'fæks/ noun, pl **fax-es**

1 a [noncount] : a system for sending and receiving printed materials (such as documents and drawings) and photographs using telephone lines • She sent me a copy of her report *by fax*. **b** [count] : a machine used in this system — called also *fax machine*; see picture at OFFICE

2 [count] : something (such as a document or a photograph) that is sent or received by fax • She sent me a *fax* of her report. • I received your *faxes*.

²**fax** verb **faxes; faxed; fax-ing** [+obj] : to send (something, such as a document or photograph) by fax to someone • She *faxed* me a copy of her report. = She *faxed* a copy of her report to me.

faze /'feiz/ verb **faz-es; fazed; faz-ing** [+obj] : to cause (someone) to feel afraid or uncertain • Nothing *fazes* [=daunts] her. • You'll never succeed as a writer if you let a little bit of criticism *faze* you.

Do not confuse *faze* with *phase*.

FBI abbr Federal Bureau of Investigation • The crime is being investigated by the *FBI*. — often used before another noun • an *FBI* agent • an *FBI* laboratory ♦ The Federal Bureau of Investigation is a part of the U.S. federal government that is responsible for investigating crimes.

FCC abbr Federal Communications Commission • the chairman of the *FCC* ♦ The Federal Communications Commission is a part of the U.S. federal government that controls radio and television broadcasting.

FDA abbr Food and Drug Administration • a new medicine that has not yet been approved by the *FDA* ♦ The Food and Drug Administration is a part of the U.S. federal government that tests, approves, and sets standards for foods, drugs, chemicals, and household products.

FDIC abbr Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation • payments made by the *FDIC* ♦ The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation is a part of the U.S. federal government that provides insurance against loss of money that people have deposited in banks.

fe-al-ty /'fi:əlti/ noun, pl -ties [count] *old-fashioned + literary* : loyalty to a person, group, etc. • He swore/pledged *fealty* to the king.

¹**fear** /'fiə/ noun, pl **fears**

1 : an unpleasant emotion caused by being aware of danger : a feeling of being afraid [noncount] He was trembling with *fear*. • an old story that still has the power to inspire *fear* [=to make people feel afraid] • unable to walk the streets without *fear* of being mugged • They regarded their enemies with *fear* and hatred/loathing. • I've been trying to overcome my *fear* of flying. • He won't say anything *for fear of* losing his job. [=because he is afraid of losing his job] • She *lived in fear* of being caught. = She *lived in fear* that she would be caught. [=she was always afraid that she would be caught] • They *lived in* (constant) *fear* of air raids during the war. • an accident that *struck fear into the hearts of* [=frightened] skiers

everywhere [count] The doctor's diagnosis confirmed our worst *fears*. • The government is trying to allay/alleviate/ease *fears* of a recession. • Employees expressed *fears* that the company would go out of business. • He told us about all his hopes and *fears*. • She has a morbid *fear* of cats. ✧ If you are *in fear of your life* or (US) *in fear for your life*, you are afraid of being killed. • She claimed that she shot the burglar because she was *in fear for her life*.

2 [noncount] : a feeling of respect and wonder for something very powerful • *fear* of God ✧ To *put the fear of God into* someone is to frighten someone very badly. • The bad economic news has *put the fear of God into* investors.

no fear Brit, informal — used in speech to say that there is no reason to be afraid or worried • “Are you going to tell her the truth?” “*No fear* [=never fear, fear not], mate: she won't hear a thing from me!”

synonyms FEAR, DREAD, ALARM, and FRIGHT mean painful emotion felt because of danger. FEAR is the most general word and suggests a continuing emotional state. • people living in *fear* of violent crimes DREAD suggests a strong feeling of not wanting to accept or deal with something bad or unpleasant. • the *dread* felt by people awaiting bad news ALARM may suggest a strong emotion caused by an unexpected or immediate danger. • They view the worsening food shortage with *alarm*. FRIGHT suggests a feeling caused by something unexpected and often suggests a brief emotion. • The creaking door gave them a *fright*.

2 *fear* verb *fears*; *feared*; *fear-ing*

1 [+ *obj*] : to be afraid of (something or someone) • She *fears* [(more commonly) *is afraid of*] the water. • He was a cruel king who was *feared* and hated by his subjects. • “... the only thing we have to *fear* is fear itself” —Franklin D. Roosevelt, Inaugural Address (1933) — sometimes followed by *to* + verb • Many people *feared to go out* at night.

2 [+ *obj*] : to expect or worry about (something bad or unpleasant) • His parents *feared* (that) he would drop out of school. • She went to her doctor, *fearing* (that) she might have cancer. • The questions weren't as difficult as he had *feared* (they might be). • When we heard there had been an accident, we *feared the worst*. [=we feared that the worst possible thing had happened] ✧ The formal phrase *I fear* is used when you are worried that something bad or unpleasant has happened or is true. • *I fear* that we're already too late. • These problems have no easy solution, *I fear*.

3 [no *obj*] : to be afraid and worried • There's no need to *fear*. • Having problems with your computer? *Never fear* [=don't worry]—help is readily available. • *Fear not* [=don't be afraid]—I'll protect you.

4 [+ *obj*] : to feel respect and wonder for something very powerful • *fear* God

fear for [phrasal verb] *fear for* (something or someone) : to feel concern for (something or someone) : to worry about (something or someone) • They *feared for* their lives [=they were afraid that they might be killed] as they felt the first trembles of the earthquake. • She *feared for* her husband's safety. [=she worried that her husband might not be safe]

fear-ful /'fiəfəl/ *adj* [more ~; most ~]

1 : feeling fear • He plays the role of a timid and *fearful* clerk. — often + *of* • *fearful* [=afraid] *of* danger • He was *fearful of* being left behind. = He was *fearful* that he would be left behind. — sometimes + *for* • She was *fearful for* their safety. [=she was afraid that they were not safe]

2 : showing or caused by fear • a *fearful* glance

3 : very bad or extreme • a *fearful* waste • *fearful* cold • They won the war but at a *fearful* cost.

4 : causing fear • I spent a *fearful* night alone in the woods. — **fear-ful-ly** *adv* • *fearfully* cold • She glanced *fearfully* out the window. — **fear-ful-ness** *noun* [noncount]

fear-less /'fiələs/ *adj* [more ~; most ~] : not afraid : very brave • a *fearless* warrior

— **fear-less-ly** *adv* • They ventured *fearlessly* into unknown lands. • The actor strode *fearlessly* across the stage. — **fear-less-ness** *noun* [noncount] • *fearlessness* in the face of danger

fear-some /'fiəsəm/ *adj* [more ~; most ~] : causing fear : very frightening • tales of a *fearsome* [=scary] monster • a *fearsome* opponent

— **fear-some-ly** *adv* • growling *fearsomely* • *fearsomely* [=very, extremely] ambitious • a *fearsomely* difficult problem — **fear-some-ness** *noun* [noncount]

fea-si-ble /'fi:zəbəl/ *adj* [more ~; most ~] : possible to do • This plan for a new town library is not economically *feasible*.

[=it costs too much money] • looking for a *feasible* way to create new jobs • a *feasible* goal

— **fea-si-bil-i-ty** /,fi:zə'bɪləti/ *noun* [noncount] • She questions the *feasibility* of the plan. • a *feasibility study* [=a study to show if something can be done] — **fea-si-bly** /'fi:zəbli/ *adv*

1 *feast* /'fi:t/ *noun*, *pl feasts* [count]

1 : a special meal with large amounts of food and drink • give/have the annual Thanksgiving *feast* • Every guest brought a different dish to the party, and we had quite a *feast*. : a large formal dinner • There were hundreds of guests at the royal wedding *feast*. — often used figuratively • a *feast* of colors • The carnival provided a veritable *feast* of sights and sounds. • The garden is a *feast for the eyes*. [=the garden is very beautiful]

2 : a religious festival • the *feast* of the Nativity • a *movable feast* [=a religious festival that is on a different date each year]

2 *feast* verb *feasts*; *feast-ed*; *feast-ing* [no *obj*] : to eat large amounts of food — usually + *on* • We *feasted on* steak and potatoes.

feast your eyes on : to look at (something or someone) with great pleasure • We *feasted our eyes on* the colors of the autumn landscape.

feat /'fi:t/ *noun*, *pl feats* [count] : an act or achievement that shows courage, strength, or skill • a performer known for her astonishing acrobatic *feats* • *feats* of strength • an exceptional *feat* of the human intellect • Writing that whole report in one night was quite a *feat*. • It was no mean/small/easy *feat*.

1 *feath-er* /'fedə/ *noun*, *pl -ers* [count] : any one of the light growths that make up the outer covering of the body of a bird • duck *feathers* • tail/wing *feathers* • downy *feathers* • a tuft of *feathers* • a *feather* pillow = a pillow filled with *feathers* • Her suitcase felt *as light as a feather*. [=extremely light] • When I found out I had won, *you could have knocked me over with a feather*. [=I was extremely surprised or astonished]

a feather in your cap : an achievement or honor that you can be proud of • The promotion was a *feather in his cap*.

of a feather : of the same kind or nature — usually used in the phrase *birds of a feather* • Those two guys are *birds of a feather*. [=they are very much alike] ✧ The expression *birds of a feather flock together* means that people who are alike tend to do things together.

ruffle feathers see **1** RUFFLE

— **feath-ered** /'fedəd/ *adj* • She likes to refer to birds as “our *feathered* friends.” • a *feathered* hat — **feath-er-less** *adj* • a bird with *featherless* legs

2 *feather* verb *-ers*; *-ered*; *-er-ing* [+ *obj*] : to put a feather in or on (something) • *feather* an arrow

feather your (own) nest : to make yourself richer in a dishonest or improper way : to do things to increase your own wealth, comfort, etc. • She was accused of *feathering her own nest* with the company's money.

tar and feather see **2** TAR

feather bed *noun*, *pl* ~ *beds* [count] : a bed with a mattress that is filled with feathers

feath-er-brained /'fedə,breɪnd/ *adj* [more ~; most ~] informal : very foolish or silly • a *featherbrained* idea • a *featherbrained* fool

1 *feath-er-weight* /'fedə,wet/ *noun*, *pl -weights* [count] : someone or something that weighs very little; especially : a boxer who weighs more than 118 pounds (53.5 kilograms) but less than 126 pounds (57 kilograms)

2 *featherweight* *adj*, always used before a noun : weighing very little : very light • a *featherweight* fabric • *featherweight* aircraft

fea-thery /'fedəri/ *adj* [more ~; most ~] : extremely light and soft or delicate : like a feather • a plant with *feathery* leaves • a *feathery* brushstroke

1 *fea-ture* /'fi:tʃə/ *noun*, *pl -tures* [count]

1 : an interesting or important part, quality, ability, etc. • This year's models include several new safety *features*. • This camera has several *features* that make it easy to use. • The car has some interesting new design *features*. • His plan combines the best *features* of the earlier proposals.

2 : a part of the face (such as the eyes, nose, or mouth) • Her eyes are her best *feature*. — usually plural • attractive facial *features* • He has handsome *features*. [=he has a handsome face] • She has striking/delicate/refined *features*.

3 : a movie that is made to be shown in a theater for entertainment : a full-length movie • Tonight's *feature* is a new ro-

mantic comedy. • He starred in his first *feature film* a year ago. • a *feature-length* motion picture [=a movie that is about two hours long] — see also DOUBLE FEATURE

4 : a special story or section in a newspaper or magazine • The paper ran a *feature* on/about urban violence. • a *feature* writer/editor = (chiefly US) a *features* writer/editor

— **fea-ture-less** /'fi:tʃələs/ *adj* • a *featureless* plain • a *featureless* expanse of rocks and sand

2 **feature** *verb* -tures; -tured; -tur-ing [+ *obj*]

1 : to have or include (someone or something) as an important part • The building *features* a state-of-the-art security system. • The new menu *features* several low-fat entrees. • The show now *features* a new singer.

2 : to discuss or mention (something or someone) in a noticeable way : to give particular attention to (someone or something important) • The evening news report *featured* the story of the murder. • The newspaper *featured* health care on its front page. — often used as (be) *featured* • She was *featured* in an article on local businesswomen.

feature in [*phrasal verb*] **feature in** (something) : to be a part of (something) • Health care *features* prominently in the new bill. • a character who *features in* many of his novels

— **featured** *adj* • He'll be appearing as the *featured* speaker [=the main speaker] at the conference. • She had a *featured* role [=an important role] in the movie. • The *featured* software is on sale through next month.

Feb. *abbr* February

fe-brile /'fe,braɪəl, Brit 'fi:,brail/ *adj* [more ~; most ~] *medical* : including or caused by fever : FEVERISH • a *febrile* illness — often used figuratively • a writer with a *febrile* [=very active] imagination

Feb-ru-ary /'febjə,weri, 'febrə,weri/ *noun, pl -ar-ies or -ar-ys* : the second month of the year [*noncount*] in (early/middle/mid-/late) *February* • early/late in *February* • We arrived on *February* the fourth. = (US) We arrived on *February* fourth. = We arrived on the fourth of *February*. [*count*] Sales are up (for) this *February* in comparison with the previous two *Februarys*. — *abbr.* *Feb.*

fe-ces (US) or *Brit fae-ces* /'fi:,si:z/ *noun [plural]* : solid waste that is released from the body : EXCREMENT

— **fe-cal** (US) or *Brit fae-cal* /'fi:kəl/ *adj* • *fecal* matter

feck-less /'fɛkləs/ *adj* [more ~; most ~] : having or resulting from a weak character or nature • She can't rely on her *feckless* son. • *feckless* behavior

— **feck-less-ness** *noun [noncount]*

fe-cund /'fɛkənd/ *adj* [more ~; most ~] *formal* : producing or able to produce many babies, young animals, or plants : FERTILE • *fecund* fields • a *fecund* breed of cattle — sometimes used figuratively • She has a *fecund* [(more commonly) *fertile*] imagination. • a *fecund* source of ideas

— **fe-cun-di-ty** /fi'kʌndəti/ *noun [noncount]*

1 **fed** *past tense and past participle of* ¹FEED

2 **fed** or **Fed** /'fed/ *noun, pl feds or Feds* [*count*] *US, informal* : an official who works for a branch of the U.S. government : a federal agent, officer, or official — usually plural • He got into trouble with the *feds*. • was investigated by the *Feds* *the Fed* *US, informal* : the group of officials (*the Federal Reserve Board*) who control the U.S. government's central banking system (*the Federal Reserve System*). • *The Fed* has decided to cut interest rates.

fed-er-al /'fedərəl/ *adj*

1 **a** : of or relating to a form of government in which power is shared between a central government and individual states, provinces, etc. • a *federal* government/system **b** : of or relating to the central government • *federal* laws/funds/employees • a *federal* district • We pay *federal*, state, and local taxes. • The ruling was overturned by a *federal* appeals court. **2** or **Federal** : of, relating to, or loyal to the federal government during the American Civil War • *Federal* soldiers • a *Federal* stronghold — compare CONFEDERATE, UNION

3 **Federal** *US* : of or popular during the early years of the U.S. government • the *Federal* period • furniture made in the *Federal* style

— **fed-er-al-ly** *adv*

Federal *noun, pl -als* [*count*] *US*

1 : a supporter of the government of the U.S. in the American Civil War; *especially* : a soldier in the federal armies — compare CONFEDERATE

2 *formal* : a federal agent or officer — usually plural • Local police sought help from the *federals*. [= (less formally) *feds*]

federal case *noun, pl ~ cases* [*count*] *US, law* : a legal case that will be decided in a U.S. federal court

make a federal case out of US, informal : to become very upset or angry about (something that is not important) • I agree that he shouldn't have said that, but there's no reason to *make a federal case out of* it. [=make a big deal about it] • Do you have to *make a federal case out of* it every time I come home late?

fed-er-al-ist /'fedərəlist/ *noun, pl -ists* [*count*]

1 or **Federalist** : a supporter of federal government; *especially, US* : a supporter of the U.S. Constitution

2 **Federalist** *US* : a member of a major political party in the early years of the U.S. that wanted a strong central government

— **fed-er-al-ism** or **Federalism** /'fedərə,lɪzəm/ *noun [non-count]* — **federalist** or **Federalist** *adj* • the *Federalist* period

fed-er-al-ize *also Brit fed-er-al-ise* /'fedərə,ləɪz/ *verb -izes; -ized; -iz-ing* [+ *obj*] *chiefly US*

1 : to join (states, nations, etc.) together in or under a federal system of government • a *federalized* government

2 : to cause (something) to be under the control of a federal government • The measure *federalizes* several state programs. • newly *federalized* crimes

— **fed-er-al-i-za-tion** *also Brit fed-er-al-i-sa-tion* /,fedərələ'zeɪʃən, Brit ,fedərə,ləɪ'zeɪʃən/ *noun [noncount]*

fed-er-ate /'fedə'reɪt/ *verb -ates; -at-ed; -at-ing* [+ *obj*] : to join (organizations, states, etc.) in a federation • The independent provinces were *federated* to form a nation. • a *federated* state

fed-er-a-tion /,fedə'reɪʃən/ *noun, pl -tions*

1 [*count*] **a** : a country formed by separate states that have given certain powers to a central government while keeping control over local matters **b** : an organization that is made by loosely joining together smaller organizations • a *federation* of labor unions • a *federation* of women's clubs

2 [*noncount*] : the act of joining together separate organizations or states • the *federation* of the states

fe-do-ra /fi'dorə/ *noun, pl -ras* [*count*] : a type of soft hat for men that has a wide brim — see picture at HAT

fed up *adj* [more ~; most ~] *informal* : very tired of something : angry about something that has continued for a long time • We've had one delay after another, and I'm starting to feel/get pretty *fed up*. — usually + *with* • I'm *fed up with* all these delays. • Consumers are *fed up with* rising gas prices. — sometimes + *of* in British English • I'm *fed up of* all these delays.

fee /'fi:/ *noun, pl fees* [*count*]

1 : an amount of money that must be paid • The admission/entrance *fee* is \$10. • a credit card with no annual *fee* • The tuition *fees* went up this year. • We returned the library book late and had to pay a *late fee*. *synonyms* see ¹PRICE

2 : an amount that is paid for work done by a doctor, lawyer, etc. • His insurance covers the doctor's *fee*. • They paid a fortune in legal *fees*.

fee-ble /'fi:bəl/ *adj* **fee-bler** /'fi:bələ/; **-blest** /'fi:bələst/ [*also more ~; most ~*]

1 : very weak • a *feeble* old man • She's still *feeble* from her long illness. • We heard a *feeble* cry for help. • Business is suffering because of the *feeble* economy. *synonyms* see WEAK

2 : not good enough : not successful or effective • a *feeble* joke • He made a *feeble* attempt/effort to explain his behavior. • He offered a *feeble* excuse for his behavior. • "Dislike" is too *feeble* a word for how she feels about him.

— **fee-ble-ness** /'fi:bəlnəs/ *noun [noncount]* • the *feebleness* of his excuse — **fee-bly** /'fi:bli/ *adv* • She smiled *feebly*. • He *feebly* attempted to explain his behavior.

fee-ble-mind-ed /,fi:bəl'maɪndəd/ *adj* [more ~; most ~]

1 *often offensive* : having less than normal intelligence • a *feeble-minded* person

2 : foolish or stupid : not sensible • a *feeble-minded* approach/solution

— **fee-ble-mind-ed-ness** *noun [noncount]*

1 **feed** /'fi:d/ *verb* **feeds; fed** /'fed/; **feed-ing**

1 **a** [+ *obj*] : to give food to (someone or something) • Don't *feed* the animals. • He was too weak to *feed* himself. • We *feed* the plants with a special fertilizer twice a week. • We *fed* the horses with/on apples, oats, and hay. **b** [+ *obj*] : to give (something) as food to someone or something • They *fed* [=gave, served] us breakfast before we left. = They *fed* breakfast to us before we left. • The children *fed* apples to the horses. — sometimes used figuratively • He was *feeding* information to the enemy. [=he was secretly giving information to the enemy] **c** [+ *obj*] : to produce or provide food for

(someone or something) • These supplies could *feed* a small army for a week. • He doesn't earn enough to *feed* a family of four. • helping to *feed* and clothe poor children **d** [*no obj*] : EAT — usually used of animals • We spotted some ducks *feeding* in a nearby pond. • They are studying the *feeding* habits of sharks. • a favorite *feeding ground* [=an area where animals feed]

2 [*+ obj*] **a** : to provide what is needed for the continued growth, operation, or existence of (something) • They used the wood to *feed* the fire. • The streams *feed* the creek. • The motor is *fed* by an electrical current. **b** : to supply (material to be used) to a machine • The logs are *fed* into the mill for processing. • She *fed* the data into the computer. • The camera *feeds* the images to a monitor.

3 [*+ obj*] : to give support or strength to (something, such as a feeling) • He *fed* their hopes with false promises. • fears *fed* by ignorance • Her early success only served to *feed* her ambition.

4 [*+ obj*] : to make (something) move through an opening • The procedure involves *feeding* a tube down the patient's throat. • She *fed* more coins into the slot.

5 [*+ obj*] *sports* : to pass a ball or puck to (a team member) especially for a shot at the goal • He *fed* the ball to a teammate for an easy basket.

bite the hand that feeds you see ¹BITE

feed back [*phrasal verb*] *feed back* or *feed back* (something) or *feed* (something) *back* *Brit* : to give helpful information or criticism to someone about a performance, product, etc. : to provide feedback — usually + *to* or *into* • My music *feeds back into* my work. • Decide how your staff should *feed back to* you. • Computer users can *feed* their views *back to* the software companies.

feed off [*phrasal verb*] *feed off* (something) : to gain strength, energy, or support from (something) • She *fed off* the crowd's enthusiasm. • His anger *fed off* his jealousy. • We are able to *feed off* each other's ideas.

feed on/upon [*phrasal verb*] *feed on/upon* (something) : to eat (something) as food — usually used of animals • Owls *feed on* insects, birds, and small mammals.

feed (someone) a line *informal* : to tell (someone) a story or an explanation that is not true • He *fed me a line* about how he was late because his car broke down.

feed up [*phrasal verb*] *feed (someone) up* *Brit, informal* : to make (someone) stronger or less thin by giving them large meals • His mother *fed him up* after his illness. — see also FED UP

feed your face *slang* : to eat a lot of food • He sat there for an hour, just *feeding his face*.

²feed *noun, pl feeds*

1 a [*noncount*] : food for animals • cattle *feed* **b** [*count*] *informal* : a large meal • a good *feed* **c** [*count*] *Brit* : FEEDING • the baby's last *feed*

2 [*count*] : a part of a machine or system that sends material or electricity to other parts • There's a jam in the paper *feed*. • We had to cut off the main power *feed*.

3 [*count*] : a television program that is sent to a station for broadcasting • They're showing a live satellite *feed* of the event.

4 [*count*] *sports* : the action of passing a ball or puck to a team member who is in position to score • He scored off/on a *feed* from the left wing.

— see also CHICKEN FEED

feed-back /'fi:d,bæk/ *noun* [*noncount*]

1 : helpful information or criticism that is given to someone to say what can be done to improve a performance, product, etc. • The company uses customer *feedback* to improve its products. • He asked for some *feedback* from his boss.

2 technical a : something (such as information or electricity) that is returned to a machine, system, or process • The computer makes adjustments based on *feedback* from the sensors. **b** : an annoying and unwanted sound caused by signals being returned to an electronic sound system • We were getting some *feedback* from the microphone.

feed-bag /'fi:d,bæg/ *noun, pl -bags* [*count*] *US* : a bag that is used for feeding an animal — called also (*Brit*) *nose bag*

put/tie/strap on the feedbag *US, informal* : to begin eating • He's always ready to *strap on the feedbag* when it's time for dinner.

feed-er /'fi:də/ *noun, pl -ers* [*count*]

1 a : a device for supplying food to animals • a wooden bird *feeder* **b** : a person who supplies food for animals • a pigeon *feeder* holding a bag of stale bread

2 : a road, railway, etc., that connects to a larger road, rail-

way, etc. — often used before another noun • a *feeder* road/route/line

3 : a part that sends materials into a machine or system

4 : a person or thing that eats or feeds in a specified way • a messy *feeder* • a gluttonous *feeder* • plants that are heavy *feeders*, also : an animal that eats a specified kind of food •

This species is a *carion feeder*. — see also BOTTOM FEEDER

feeding *noun, pl -ings* [*count*] *US* : the act of giving food to a person (such as a baby) or an animal • When was the baby's last *feeding*? [= (*Brit*) *feed*]

feeding frenzy *noun, pl ~ -zies* [*count*] : a state of wild activity in which the animals in a group are all trying to eat something • sharks in a *feeding frenzy* — often used figuratively • There has been a *feeding frenzy* among publishers to obtain the rights to her story.

¹feel /'fi:l/ *verb* **feels; felt** /'felt/; **feel-ing**

1 [*+ obj*] : to be aware of (something that affects you physically, such as pain, heat, or an object touching your body) • He *felt* a sudden pain in his leg. • I could *feel* the warmth of the sun. • I *felt* someone tap my shoulder. • I could *feel* him pulling my hair. [=I could feel that he was pulling my hair] • Do you *feel* a draft? • I'm the kind of person who really *feels* the heat/cold. [=hot/cold weather bothers me more than it bothers most people]

2 [*linking verb*] — used to describe or ask about someone's physical or mental state • I *feel* dizzy/faint. • How are you *feeling* today? = How do you *feel* today? • I *feel* bad/good/sick/well/fine. • I hope you *feel* better soon. [=I hope you will stop feeling ill soon] • He's been *feeling* a little depressed lately. • You can *feel* proud of what you've accomplished. • I *feel* responsible for the accident. [=I feel that I was responsible for the accident; I feel that the accident was my fault] • I *feel* confident that we'll win. • You may *feel* different tomorrow. [=your mood/thinking may change tomorrow] • She *felt* hurt by their indifference. • I *feel* certain/sure that we can solve these problems. • I *feel* like a fool. = (*chiefly Brit*) I *feel* a fool. • I didn't *feel like myself* yesterday. = I didn't *feel myself* yesterday. [=I didn't feel well yesterday] • I *feel as if/though* I'm falling. = (*informal*) I *feel like* I'm falling. • (You can) *Feel free* to leave whenever you like. [=you are free to leave whenever you like] ♦ If you *feel like* doing something, you want to do it. • Do you *feel like* (taking) a walk? • I *feel like* crying. • "Why won't you come?" "Because I don't *feel like* it." • He does whatever he *feels like* (doing). • I don't *feel like* talking about it. [=I don't want to talk about it]

3 a [*+ obj*] : to touch (something) with your fingers to see what it is like • She *felt* the fabric to see if it was wool. **b** [*+ obj*] : to find (something) by touching with your fingers •

Your ribs are bruised, but I don't *feel* any broken bones. **c** [*no obj*] : to search for something by reaching or touching usually with your fingers — often + *for* • The doctor *felt for* any possible fractures in the patient's bruised ribs. • He *felt for* the switch. — often + *around* or (*Brit*) *about* • He *felt around* in the dark for the light switch. • He *felt around* under the table with his foot. **d** *not used in progressive tenses*

[*linking verb*] — used to describe the quality that something has when it is touched • This *feels* like wool (to me)—but it may not be. • The silk *feels* smooth (to me).

4 [*+ obj*] : to believe or think (something) • He *feels* that they behaved badly. • They *felt* (that) it would be foolish to continue. • I *feel* (that) I really ought to say something. • He *felt* it necessary to say something. = He *felt* that it was necessary to say something.

5 [*no obj*] : to have an opinion • How do you *feel* about this proposal? [=what do you think of this proposal; what is your opinion of this proposal?] • Their votes reflect how they *feel* toward poor people. ♦ If you *feel strongly*, you have a strong or definite opinion about something. • We *feel* (very) *strongly* that they've been treated unfairly. • If you *feel* that *strongly* (about it), we won't go.

6 [*+ obj*] : to be aware of (something) in your mind or emotions • He *felt* his son's ingratitude, and he resented it. • She could *feel* [=sense] the presence of an intruder in the house. • I *feel* the urge to speak. • I *feel the need* to try again. [=I think I/we should try again] • I *feel your pain*. [=I am aware of how (much) you must have suffered]

7 [*+ obj*] **a** : to experience the effect of (something) • He *felt* the medicine starting to work. • I'm really *feeling my age* lately. [=I am feeling the effects of growing older] **b** : to experience (something) • Many people will *feel* the impact of this decision. [=many people will be affected by this decision] • I *felt* pleasure in her company. [=I enjoyed being with her] • He *felt* no remorse for what he had done. • She *feels* con-

tempt for her political enemies. **c** : to be hurt by (something) • They *felt* the insult deeply. [=they were deeply hurt by the insult] • She *felt* the loss/death of her mother.

8 *not used in progressive tenses* [linking verb] **a** — used to describe the quality that something has or the feeling that something causes • It just doesn't *feel* [=seem] right to be doing this. • It *feels* like spring today. • It *feels* strange that I'm here again. = It *feels* strange to be here again. • This place really *feels* like home. • It *feels* as if it's going to rain. = (chiefly US) It *feels* like rain. **b** : to have a specified physical quality • My eyes *feel* dry. • His hands *felt* cool.

feel for [phrasal verb] **feel for (someone)** : to have sympathy or pity for (someone) • I *feel* (deeply) *for* you, but there's nothing I can do to help. — see also ¹FEEL 3c (above)

feel no pain chiefly US, informal : to be drunk • He had been at the bar for several hours and he was clearly *feeling no pain*. [=he was very drunk]

feel out [phrasal verb] **feel (someone) out** : to talk to or question (someone) in an indirect way in order to find out if something you want to do or get will be possible • He tried to *feel* us *out* to see if we'd loan him more money.

feel up [phrasal verb] **feel (someone) up** or **feel up (someone)** informal : to touch (someone who does not want to be touched) for sexual pleasure • She says he *felt* her *up*.

feel your best see ³BEST

feel your oats see OAT

feel your way **1** : to move forward carefully by putting your hands in front of you so that you can feel anything that blocks you • He *felt his way* through the darkened room. **2** : to move toward a goal very slowly and carefully • In the early days of the project they were just *feeling their way* (along), trying not to make mistakes.

²feel noun [singular]

1 a : the quality of a thing that is experienced by touching it • It had a greasy *feel*. [=it felt greasy] • the *feel* of old leather **b** : a particular quality • The restaurant's decor has an Asian *feel* (to/about it). • Although the table is brand-new, it has the look and *feel* of an antique.

2 a : an understanding of something • We walked around to get the *feel* of the town. [=to find out what the town was like] — usually + *for* • We walked around to get a *feel for* the town. • After living in France for 20 years, she has a *feel for* the way the French think. • We're trying to get a *feel for* what's needed. **b** : an ability to use something or do something in a skillful way — usually + *for* • He's been practicing for several weeks and he's starting to get a *feel for* the instrument. • She has a *feel for* language.

3 : a feeling or sensation • He liked the *feel* of the sun on his face.

4 *Brit* : an act of feeling or touching something • They had a *feel* of the old leather. [=they felt the old leather]

by feel **1** : by feeling with your hands when you cannot see • It was too dark too see anything, so she had to find the door knob *by feel*. **2** : by being guided by your physical feelings, your senses, etc., instead of by rules or directions • an athlete who plays *by feel*

cop a feel see ²COP

feel-er /'fi:lə/ noun, pl -ers [count]

1 : a movable part (such as an antenna) of an animal or insect that is used for touching things

2 : a suggestion or question to find out the thoughts or opinions of other people • I haven't had a definite job offer yet, but I've received a few *feelers*. [=I've been asked if I am interested in a new job] — usually plural • The companies have been *putting out feelers* about a merger. [=the companies have been quietly asking about the possibility of a merger]

feel-good /'fi:l,gud/ adj, always used before a noun : producing good or happy feelings • a *feel-good* movie

feel-ing /'fi:lɪŋ/ noun, pl -ings

1 : an awareness by your body of something in it or on it : SENSATION [count] a *feeling* of pain/nausea • I noticed tingling *feelings* in my fingers. • She had a queasy *feeling* in her stomach. • I had the *feeling* of something crawling across my foot. • We enjoyed the *feeling* of walking barefoot in the sand. [noncount] He had no *feeling* in his right leg.

2 a : an emotional state or reaction [count] *feelings* of joy/sorrow/anger/love • He's been troubled by *feelings* of guilt. • There's no point in trying to hide your *feelings*. • She's always had a kindly *feeling* towards them. = She always had kindly *feelings* towards them. • I hope this decision won't cause any *bad/ill feelings*. [=cause any feelings of anger, dislike, etc.] • I have a *good feeling* about this project. [=I expect this project to go well] • He has *ambivalent/mixed feelings* about his new

job [=he has both good and bad feelings about his new job] • *warm feelings* [=good, pleasant, or friendly feelings] • "I could really use a vacation." "I *know the feeling*." [=I know how you feel] • The new security patrols gave residents a *feeling of safety*. [=the patrols made them feel safe] • a *feeling of comfort* • I didn't mean to insult you—*no hard feelings*, right? [=you're not angry, are you?] • You *hurt my feelings*. [=you upset me; you made me feel bad] • We pretended to like his artwork in order to *spare his feelings*. [=to avoid hurting his feelings] [noncount] They complained *with feeling* [=in a way that showed they were feeling strong emotion] about her decision. • He spoke *with feeling* about the injustice he had seen. **b** [noncount] : thoughts of wanting to help someone who is sick, hungry, in trouble, etc. : SYMPATHY • Have you no *feeling* for the plight of the homeless? — see also FELLOW FEELING

3 a [count] : an opinion or belief • What's your *feeling* on/about this subject? = What are your *feelings* on/about this subject? • I can see that you have strong *feelings* about this subject. • I get the *feeling* [=impression] that you think I don't know what I'm doing. • My *feeling* is that we need to hire more people. • She *shared her feelings* with us on a variety of subjects. [=told us her opinions about a variety of subjects] ♦ If you *have a/the feeling* that something might happen or be true, you think it might happen or be true even though you have no definite reason to think so. • He *had the feeling* (that) he was being watched, although he didn't see anyone. • I *had a feeling* you'd say that. • I *have a* nagging/funny *feeling* that I've forgotten something. • I *have a* sneaky/sneaking *feeling* that my guess was wrong. • Do you ever *have the feeling* [=have the sense, have the impression] (that) you're being watched? **b** [noncount] : an opinion or a way of thinking that is shared by many people • Anti-war *feeling* has reached an all-time high. = There is strong *feeling* against the war. [=many people are opposed to the war]

4 [singular] : the general quality or character of a place or thing • The story has an eerie *feeling*. [=feel, quality] • a big city with a small-town *feeling* [=feel, atmosphere]

5 [noncount] : the quality of a work of art or performance that shows the emotion of the artist or performer • You need to play this passage with more *feeling*. [=expression]

6 [singular] : an ability to understand the nature of something : ²FEEL 2 • a painter with a good *feeling* for color

have feelings for : to feel love or affection for (someone) • Even though they're divorced, it's obvious that they still *have* (tender) *feelings for* each other.

feel-ing-ly /'fi:lɪŋli/ adv [more ~; most ~] : in an emotional manner • She wrote *feelingly* about the tragedy.

feet plural of ¹FOOT

feet-first /'fi:t'fɜ:st/ adv : with the feet leading • She jumped into the pool *feetfirst*. — compare HEADFIRST

feign /'feɪn/ verb **feigns; feigned; feign-ing** [+ obj] : to pretend to feel or be affected by (something) • He would often *feign* [=fake] illness to get out of class. • He *feigned* being ill. • *feign* death/surprise/madness/sleep/ignorance — **feigned** adj • She greeted him with *feigned* nonchalance.

¹feint /'feɪnt/ noun, pl **feints** [count] sports : a quick movement that you make to trick an opponent • The boxer made a *feint* with his right, then followed with a left hook.

²feint verb **feints; feint-ed; feint-ing** [no obj] sports : to pretend to make an attack as a trick to fool your opponent : to make a feint • He *feinted* with his right, then followed with a left hook.

feisty /'faɪsti/ adj **feist-i-er; -est** [also more ~; most ~] : not afraid to fight or argue : very lively and aggressive • The novel features a *feisty* heroine. • Even her opponents admire her *feisty* spirit.

— **feist-i-ness** noun [noncount] • They admire her *feistiness*.

feld-spar /'fɛld,spɑ:/ noun [noncount] : a very common type of mineral

fe-lic-i-ta-tion /fɪ,lɪsə'teɪʃən/ noun, pl **-tions** formal : CONGRATULATION 2 [noncount] a message of *felicitation* • [plural] They offered their heartfelt *felicitations*. • *Felicitations* to you and your family on this happy occasion.

fe-lic-i-tous /fɪ'lɪsətəs/ adj [more ~; most ~] formal : very well suited for some purpose or situation : APPROPRIATE • a *felicitous* combination of flavors • a *felicitous* phrase

— **fe-lic-i-tous-ly** adv • expressing himself *felicitously* — **fe-lic-i-tous-ness** noun [noncount]

fe-lic-i-ty /fɪ'lɪsəti/ noun, pl **-ties** formal

1 [noncount] : great happiness • domestic/marital *felicity*

2 [count] : something that is pleasing and well chosen —

usually plural • He admired the movie for its stylistic *felicities*. • *felicities* of phrasing

3 [*noncount*] : a talent for speaking or writing in a very effective way • I've always admired his *felicity* with words.

¹fe·line /'fi:lɪn/ *adj*

1 : of or relating to the cat family • a *feline* species • *feline* diseases

2 [*more ~*; *most ~*] : resembling a cat : like a cat's • *feline* eyes • They move with *feline* agility/grace.

²feline *noun, pl -lines* [*count*] *formal* : a feline animal : CAT • domesticated *felines*

¹fell *past tense of* ¹FALL

²fell /'fel/ *verb* *fell*s; *felled*; *fell-ing* [+ *obj*]

1 : to cut down (a tree) • using an ax to *fell* a tree

2 : to beat or knock down (someone or something) • He's strong enough to *fell* an ox. — often used figuratively • Their father was *felled* [=killed] by a heart attack at age 55.

³fell *adj, formal + literary* : very fierce or cruel • a *fell* enemy/purpose

in one fell swoop also at one fell swoop : with a single, quick action or effort • The court has dismissed all of the charges against him *in one fell swoop*.

⁴fell *noun, pl fell*s [*count*] *Brit*

1 : a hill in the north of England

2 : a high field or moor in the north of England

fel·la /'felə/ *noun, pl -las* [*count*] *informal*

1 : a male person : FELLOW • He's not a bad *fella*.

2 : BOYFRIEND • She has a new *fella*.

fel·la·tio /fə'leɪʃi,ou/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the act of stimulating a man's penis with the mouth for sexual pleasure

¹fel·low /'felou/ *noun, pl -lows* [*count*]

1 *informal + somewhat old-fashioned* **a** : a male person : a boy or man • *fellows* and girls at a party • He seems like an amiable *fellow*. [=guy] • a fine *fellow* • a young *fellow* like you • Your son's a bright little *fellow*. **b** : a male companion of a girl or woman : BOYFRIEND • She's found herself a new *fel-low*.

2 *old-fashioned* : a member of a group of people who have shared interests, activities, etc. — usually plural • He's eager to rejoin his *fellows*. • She wants to protect the good reputation she enjoys among her *fellows*.

3 or **Fellow** **a** : a member of a literary, artistic, or scientific organization • a *fellow* of the American College of Surgeons • a *Fellow* of the Royal Society/Academy **b** : a senior member of some British colleges and universities

4 *chiefly US* : an advanced student at a university who is given money to pay for food, housing, etc. : a graduate student who has been granted a fellowship • a postdoctoral *fellow* • a teaching/research *fellow* [=a graduate student who gets money in exchange for teaching/research] • a medical *fellow*

²fellow *adj, always used before a noun* — used to describe people who belong to the same group or class or who share a situation, experience, etc. • He attended the concert with a *fellow* student. [=someone who is a student, as he is] • her *fel-low* employees/citizens — see also FELLOW MAN, FELLOW TRAVELER

fellow feeling *noun* [*noncount*] : a feeling of shared interest or understanding • There's a sense of sympathy and *fellow feeling* among members of the group.

fellow man *noun, pl ~ men* [*count*] : a person other than yourself : a fellow human being — usually used with *my*, *our*, *his*, *her*, etc., to refer to other people in general • He has always tried to be of service to his *fellow man*. [=to other people] • We have to learn to love our *fellow man*.

fel·low·ship /'feləʃɪp/ *noun, pl -ships*

1 [*noncount*] : a friendly relationship among people • People came to the community dinner to share good food and good *fellowship*. [=company, companionship]

2 [*noncount*] : the relationship of people who share interests or feelings • traditions that bind us together in *fellowship*

3 [*count*] : a group of people who have similar interests • a youth *fellowship* • a *fellowship* of writers

4 [*count*] **a** : an amount of money to pay for food, housing, etc., that is given to a graduate student who teaches or does research at a university • She applied for a research *fellowship* in physics. • He came to the university on a teaching *fellowship*. **b** : the position of a fellow at a university or college • He holds a *fellowship* at the university.

fellow traveler (US) or **Brit fellow traveller** *noun, pl ~ -ers* [*count*]

1 : someone who is traveling in the same group or on the

same train, airplane, etc., as you • I struck up a conversation with one of my *fellow travelers*.

2 : someone who shares the opinions and beliefs of the people in a group or organization (especially the Communist Party) but does not belong to that group or organization • He was not a member of the Communist Party or even a *fellow traveler*.

fel·on /'felən/ *noun, pl -ons* [*count*] : a criminal who has committed a serious crime (called a felony) • a convicted *fel-on*

fel·o·ny /'feləni/ *noun, pl -nies* [*count*] *law* : a serious crime (such as murder or rape) • The crime is considered a *felony* under state law. • He received a *felony* conviction. = He was convicted of committing a *felony*. • He was convicted of *felony* murder/theft. — compare MISDEMEANOR

— **fe·lo·ni·ous** /fə'louniəs/ *adj* • *felonious* assault — **fe·lo·ni·ous·ly** *adv* • charged with *feloniously* assaulting a police officer

¹felt *past tense and past participle of* ¹FEEL

²felt /'felt/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a soft, heavy cloth made by pressing together fibers of wool, cotton, or other materials • She made her son's costume from scraps of *felt*. • a *felt* hat

felt-tip /'felt,tɪp/ *noun, pl -tips* [*count*] : a pen that has a writing point made of felt — called also *felt-tip pen*; see picture at OFFICE

fem *abbr* female; feminine

¹fe·male /'fi:meɪl/ *adj*

1 **a** : of or relating to the sex that can produce young or lay eggs • a *female* bird/mammal/insect • *female* [=women] athletes • a study of *female* [=women's] sexuality **b** [*more ~*; *most ~*] : characteristic of girls or women • a *female* [=feminine] voice/name **c** : having members who are all girls or women • a *female* choir

2 *of a plant* : having only seed-producing flowers • a *female* holly

3 *technical* : having a hole that another part (called a male part) fits into • Most extension cords have a male plug on one end and a *female* plug on the other.

— **fe·male·ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

²female *noun, pl -males* [*count*]

1 : a woman or a girl : a female person • She attended a school where there were more males than *females*.

usage The use of *female* to mean “woman” or “girl” now occurs most commonly in scientific or technical language. • According to the study, males scored about the same as *females*. • The suspect was described as a white *female* aged about 30. In other contexts, it is often seen as a humorous or mildly insulting word. • The shopping mall was mobbed by herds of adolescent *females*. • He referred to his angry coworkers as “a bunch of spiteful *females*.”

2 : an animal that can produce young or lay eggs : a female animal • *Females* of this species weigh 8 to 10 pounds.

3 : a plant that can produce seed or fruit : a female plant

¹fem·i·nine /'femənən/ *adj*

1 [*more ~*; *most ~*] : of, relating to, or suited to women or girls • a *feminine* look/appearance • *feminine* beauty/mystique • the *feminine* [=female] figure • *feminine* hygiene • The book examines the subject from a *feminine* perspective. • They've added some *feminine* touches to the decor. • He has a rather *feminine* [=effeminate] voice. — compare ¹MASCULINE

2 *grammar, in some languages* : of or belonging to the class of words (called a gender) that ordinarily includes most of the words referring to females • a *feminine* noun • the *feminine* gender • The *feminine* form of the Spanish adjective “lindo” is “linda.” — compare ¹MASCULINE, ¹NEUTER — **fem·i·nin·i·ty** /,femə'nɪnəti/ *noun* [*noncount*] • old-fashioned notions about masculinity and femininity

²feminine *noun, pl -nines* [*count*] *grammar, in some languages* : a word or form of the feminine gender • The *feminine* of the Spanish adjective “lindo” is “linda.”

fem·i·nism /'femə,nɪzəm/ *noun* [*noncount*]

1 : the belief that men and women should have equal rights and opportunities

2 : organized activity in support of women's rights and interests

— **fem·i·nist** /'femənɪst/ *noun, pl -nists* [*count*] • liberal *feminists* — **feminist** *adj* • the *feminist* movement • *feminist* theory

femme fa·tale /,femfə'tæl/ *noun, pl femmes fa·tales* /,femfə'tælz/ [*count*] : a very attractive woman who causes

trouble or unhappiness for the men who become involved with her

fe-mur /'fi:mə/ *noun*, *pl* **fe-murs** also **fem-o-ra** /'femərə/ [*count*] *medical* : the long bone in the upper part of the leg — called also *thighbone*; see picture at HUMAN

— **fem-o-ral** /'femərəl/ *adj*, always used before a noun • the *femoral* artery [=an artery that lies near the femur]

fen /'fen/ *noun*, *pl* **fens** [*count*] : low land that is completely or partly covered by water • bogs and *fens*

¹fence /'fens/ *noun*, *pl* **fenc-es** [*count*]

1 : a structure like a wall built outdoors usually of wood or metal that separates two areas or prevents people or animals from entering or leaving • We put up a *fence* around our yard. — see picture at HOUSE; see also CHAIN-LINK FENCE

2 informal : a person who buys stolen property from thieves and sells it

mend fences see **¹MEND**

on the fence : unable to decide about something • He tried to persuade those still (sitting) *on the fence* to vote in his favor.

the grass is always greener on the other side (of the fence) see **¹GRASS**

— **fence-less** *adj*

²fence *verb* **fences; fenced; fenc-ing**

1 [+ *obj*] **a** : to put a fence around (a place or area) • They've decided to *fence* (in) the yard. • She *fenced* (off) a corner of the property to use as a garden. • a house with a *fenced-in* yard **b** : to keep (something or someone) in or out with a fence • He *fenced* (in) the sheep so they wouldn't wander too far.

2 [*no obj*] : to fight with swords : to practice the art or sport of fencing • Do you *fence*? — sometimes used figuratively • candidates *fencing* with each other in their televised debates

3 [+ *obj*] *informal* : to sell (stolen property) to someone who buys and sells stolen property as an illegal business : to sell (stolen property) to a fence • He stole watches and *fenced* them on the street.

— **fenc-er** *noun*, *pl* **-ers** [*count*] • A skilled *fencer* advances as his opponent retreats.

fencing *noun* [*noncount*]

1 : the art or sport of fighting with swords

2 : material that is used for making fences • *barbed-wire fencing*

fend /'fend/ *verb* **fends; fend-ed; fend-ing**

fend for yourself : to do things without help : to do basic activities by yourself • They had to *fend for themselves* while their mother was away. • He's been *fending for himself* since his wife died.

fend off [*phrasal verb*] *fend off* (someone or something) or *fend* (someone or something) *off* : to defend yourself against (someone or something) • They succeeded in *fending off* the attack/attackers. • They have had to *fend off* allegations of voter fraud.

fend-er /'fendə/ *noun*, *pl* **-ers** [*count*]

1 US : a part of a vehicle that covers a wheel — called also (*Brit*) *wing*; see picture at CAR

2 US : a curved piece of metal that covers a wheel of a motorcycle or bicycle — called also (*Brit*) *mudguard*

3 : a low metal frame or screen placed in front of an open fireplace

fender bender *noun*, *pl* ~ **-ers** [*count*] *US, informal* : a minor car accident • She had a *fender bender*. = She was in a *fender bender*.

feng shui /'fɛŋ'ʃwi:/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a Chinese system for positioning a building and the objects within a building in a way that is thought to agree with spiritual forces and to bring health and happiness

fen-nel /'fen/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a garden plant that is grown for its seeds, stems, and leaves

fe-ral /'ferəl/ *adj*

1 : of, relating to, or resembling a wild beast • *feral* instincts • They led a *feral* existence.

2 — used to describe an animal (such as a cat or dog) that has escaped and become wild • *feral* cats

¹fer-ment /'fə:ment/ *verb* **-ments; -ment-ed; -men-ting**

: to go through a chemical change that results in the production of alcohol [*no obj*] The wine *ferments* in oak barrels. — sometimes used figuratively • He let the plan *ferment* [=develop] in his mind. [+ *obj*] Yeast *ferments* the sugar in the juice.

— **fer-men-ta-tion** /'fə:mən'teɪʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*] • Grape juice becomes wine through *fermentation*. • the process of *fermentation*

²fer-ment /'fə:ment/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a situation in which there is much excitement and confusion caused by change •

The city was in a state of *ferment* after the election.

fern /'fɛn/ *noun*, *pl* **ferns** [*count*] : a type of plant that has large, delicate leaves and no flowers

— **fern-like** /'fɛn,lʌk/ *adj* — **ferny** /'fɛni/ *adj* • a plant with *ferny* foliage • a *ferny* courtyard

fe-ro-cious /'fə:rouʃəs/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]

1 : very fierce or violent • *ferocious* animals • A *ferocious* wind swept the beach. • He had a *ferocious* [=savage] look in his eye.

2 : very great or extreme • The competition among the students was *ferocious*. • *ferocious* heat • a *ferocious* appetite

— **fe-ro-cious-ly** *adv* • *ferociously* strong winds • a *ferociously* hot day — **fe-ro-cious-ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

fe-roc-i-ty /'fə:rɔ:səti/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a

very fierce or violent quality : the quality or state of being ferocious • the *ferocity* of the lion's attack • We were stunned by the *ferocity* of the storm.

¹fer-ret /'ferət/ *noun*, *pl* **-rets**

[*count*] : a small animal that is related to the weasel and is used for hunting rodents

²ferret *verb* **-rets; -ret-ed; -ret-ing**

ferret out [*phrasal verb*] *ferret out* (something) or *ferret* (something) *out* : to find (something, such as information) by careful searching • He's good at *ferretting out* the facts. • *ferret out* answers/problems

Fer-ris wheel /'ferəs-/ *noun*,

pl ~ **wheels** [*count*] chiefly

US : a very large upright wheel that has seats around its edge where people sit while the wheel turns ♦ *Ferris wheels* are rides that are found at amusement parks. — called also (*Brit*) *big wheel*

fer-rous /'ferəs/ *adj*, *technical* : of, relating to, or containing iron • *ferrous* metal/materials

fer-rule /'ferəl/ *noun*, *pl*

-rules [*count*] : a usually metal ring or cap that is placed around the end of a wooden stick or handle to strengthen it

¹fer-ry /'feri/ *verb* **-ries; -ried;**

-ry-ing [+ *obj*] : to carry or move (someone or something) on a vehicle (such as a boat or a car) usually for a short distance between two

places • The cars were *ferried* across the river. • They *ferry* supplies to the island. • A bus *ferries* visitors from the parking lot to the entrance gate. = A bus *ferries* visitors between the parking lot and the entrance gate.

²ferry *noun*, *pl* **-ries** [*count*]

1 : FERRYBOAT • *Ferries* to both islands depart daily. • You can get there by *ferry*. • a *ferry* service/ride

2 : a place where a ferryboat operates • We'll meet you at the *ferry*.

fer-ry-boat /'feri,bout/ *noun*, *pl* **-boats** [*count*] : a boat that is used to carry people and things for a short distance between two places : a boat that ferries people and things

fer-ry-man /'ferimən/ *noun*, *pl* **-men** /-mən/ [*count*] : a person (especially a man) who operates a ferry

fer-tile /'fɛtl/ *adj*

1 [*more* ~; *most* ~] : producing many plants or crops : able to support the growth of many plants • *fertile* [=rich] farmland/soil

2 [*more* ~; *most* ~] **a** : producing a large amount of something • an area that is a *fertile* breeding ground for political extremism • This subject remains a *fertile* field for additional



fern



ferret



Ferris wheel

investigation. **b** : producing many ideas • He has a *fertile* mind. • her *fertile* imagination

3 a : able to produce children, young animals, etc. • healthy, *fertile* women/men • a *fertile* cow/bull **b** : able to grow or develop • a *fertile* egg

fer·til·i·ty /fə'tɪləti/ *noun* [noncount] : the state or condition of being fertile: such as **a** : the ability to produce young • She studied the effects of pollution on the *fertility* of the local fish population. • The doctor ordered a test of his/her *fertility*. — often used before another noun • a *fertility* test/drug • a *fertility* god/idol **b** : the ability to support the growth of many plants • The area is known for its soil *fertility*. **c** : the ability to produce many ideas • the *fertility* of his imagination

fer·til·ize also *Brit fer·til·ise* /'fætə,laɪz/ *verb* -iz-es; -ized; -iz-ing

1 [+ *obj*] **a** : to make (an egg) able to grow and develop • A single sperm *fertilizes* an egg. **b** : to make (a plant or flower) able to produce seeds • Bees *fertilize* plants as they collect nectar from flowers.

2 : to make (soil, land, etc.) richer and better able to support plant growth by adding chemicals or a natural substance (such as manure) [+ *obj*] He *fertilizes* the lawn every year. [no *obj*] The soil is so rich there is no need to *fertilize*.

— **fer·til·i·za·tion** also *Brit fer·til·i·sa·tion* /,fætələ'zeɪʃən/ *noun* [noncount]

fer·til·iz·er also *Brit fer·til·is·er* /'fætə,laɪzə/ *noun*, *pl* -ers : a substance (such as manure or a special chemical) that is added to soil to help the growth of plants [noncount] We only use organic *fertilizer* in our gardens. [count] They use chemical *fertilizers* on their lawn.

fer·vent /'fævənt/ *adj* [more ~; most ~] : felt very strongly • He is known for his *fervent* [=passionate, zealous] nationalism.: having or showing very strong feelings • They entered a *fervent* [=heated] debate over the death penalty. • a *fervent* admirer/supporter/opponent

— **fer·vent·ly** *adv* • *fervently* enthusiastic supporters

fer·vid /'fævəd/ *adj* [more ~; most ~] somewhat formal : having or showing feelings that are very strong or too strong • *fervid* fans

— **fer·vid·ly** *adv*

fer·vor (US) or *Brit fer·vour* /'fævə/ *noun* [noncount] : a strong feeling of excitement and enthusiasm • The *fervor* surrounding her campaign continued right through election day. • The novel captures the revolutionary *fervor* of the period. • religious *fervor*

fess /'fes/ *verb* fess-es; fessed; fess-ing

fess up [phrasal verb] chiefly US, informal : to admit that you have done something wrong : CONFESS • At first he denied everything, but eventually he *fessed up*. • He finally *fessed up* about his involvement. = He finally *fessed up* to being involved.

fes·ter /'festə/ *verb* -ters; -tered; -ter-ing [no *obj*]

1 : to become painful and infected • His wounds *festered* for days before he got medical attention. • a *festering* sore

2 : to become worse as time passes • His feelings of resentment have *festered* for years. • We should deal with these problems now instead of allowing them to *fester*.

fes·ti·val /'festəvəl/ *noun*, *pl* -vals [count]

1 : a special time or event when people gather to celebrate something • Each year, a *festival* was held to celebrate the harvest. • The town has a summer *festival* in the park.

2 : an organized series of performances • a film/jazz *festival*

fes·tive /'festɪv/ *adj*

1 [more ~; most ~] : cheerful and exciting : suited to a celebration or holiday • The house looks very *festive* during the holidays. • She was in a *festive* mood. • The reunion will be a *festive* occasion.

2 Brit : of or relating to Christmas • the *festive* season

fes·tiv·i·ty /'fɛ'strɪvəti/ *noun*, *pl* -ties

1 [noncount] : celebration and enjoyment • The decorations give the hall an air of *festivity*.

2 festivities [plural] : enjoyable activities at the time of a holiday or other special occasion : festive activities • The *festivities* will include a parade, a concert, and games for children. • We enjoyed the New Year's Eve *festivities*.

1 fes·toon /fɛ'stu:n/ *verb* -toons; -tooned; -toon-ing [+ *obj*] : to cover or decorate (something) with many small objects, pieces of paper, etc. • We *festooned* the halls with leaves and white lights. • The balcony is *festooned* in/with ivy. • His office is *festooned* with newspaper clippings.

2 festoon *noun*, *pl* -toons [count] : a long chain or strip of something (such as flowers or cloth) that is hung as a decora-

tion — usually plural • walls covered with *festoons* of flowers

fe·ta /'fetə/ *noun* [noncount] : a type of white Greek cheese that is made from sheep's or goat's milk • *feta* cheese

fe·tal (US) or *Brit foe·tal* /'fi:təl/ *adj* : of or relating to a developing animal or human being that is not yet born : of or relating to a fetus • a *fetal* heartbeat • a *fetal* pig

fetal position (US) or *Brit foetal position* *noun* [singular] : a position in which you lie on your side with both legs and both arms bent and pulled up to your chest and with your head bowed forward

fetch /'fetʃ/ *verb* fetch-es; fetched; fetch-ing

1 : to go after and bring back (someone or something) [+ *obj*] Wait here while I *fetch* [=get] the doctor. • Please *fetch* me a drink. = Please *fetch* a drink for me. • If you throw the ball the dog will *fetch* it. [no *obj*] Hunting dogs are trained to *fetch*.

2 [+ *obj*] : to be sold for (an amount of money) • This table should *fetch* quite a bit at auction. • The house *fetched* more than we expected.

fetch and carry : to do the kind of jobs that servants do for someone • I won't *fetch and carry* for you all day.

fetch up [phrasal verb] chiefly Brit, informal : to reach or come to a place, condition, or situation that was not planned or expected • She traveled throughout Europe and eventually *fetched up* [=ended up] in Italy.

fetching /'fetʃɪŋ/ *adj* [more ~; most ~] somewhat old-fashioned : attractive or pleasing • a *fetching* smile • You look very *fetching* in that outfit.

— **fetch·ing·ly** *adv* • *fetchingly* dressed

1 fete or *fête* /'fet, 'fɛt/ *noun*, *pl* fetes [count]

1 US : a large party or celebration

2 Brit : an outdoor event for raising money that usually includes competitions and things for sale • won a prize at the church/village *fete*

2 fete or *fête* *verb* fetes or fêtes; fet-ed or fêted; fet-ing or fêt-ing [+ *obj*] : to honor (a person) or celebrate (something) with a large party or public celebration • They *feted* the winning team with banquets and parades. — often used as (be) *feted* • She was *feted* for her contributions to science.

fet·id /'fetəd/ *adj* [more ~; most ~] : having a strong, unpleasant smell • a *fetid* pool of water • the *fetid* odor of rotting vegetables

fe·tish /'fetɪʃ/ *noun*, *pl* -tish-es [count]

1 : a strong and unusual need or desire for something • He has a *fetish* for secrecy.

2 : a need or desire for an object, body part, or activity for sexual excitement • a shoe/foot/leather *fetish*

3 : an object that is believed to have magical powers • He wore a *fetish* to ward off evil spirits.

— **fe·tish·ism** /'fetɪʃ,ɪzəm/ *noun* [noncount] • sexual *fetishism* — **fe·tish·ist** /'fetɪʃɪst/ *noun*, *pl* -ists [count] • a foot *fetishist* [=a person who has a foot fetish]

fet·lock /'fet,lɔ:k/ *noun*, *pl* -locks [count] : a part at the back of a horse's leg above the hoof

fet·ter /'fetə/ *verb* -ters; -tered; -ter-ing [+ *obj*]

1 formal : to prevent (someone or something) from moving or acting freely • He found himself *fettered* by responsibilities. • restrictions that *fetter* [=hinder] creativity

2 old-fashioned : to put chains around someone's feet to prevent motion • *fetter* [=shackle] a prisoner

fet·ters /'fetəz/ *noun* [plural]

1 formal : something that prevents someone or something from moving or acting freely • She longs to be free of the *fetters* [=constraints] of family obligations.

2 : chains placed around a person's feet to restrict motion • a prisoner in *fetters* [=shackles]

fet·tle /'fetl/ *noun* [singular] informal : a person's physical state or condition — usually used in the phrase *in fine fettle* • He seems to be *in fine fettle* this morning. [=he seems to be feeling very well; he seems very fit and cheerful]

fet·tuc·ci·ne or *fet·tuc·ci·ni* or *fet·tu·ci·ne* or *fet·tu·ci·ni* /,fetə'tʃi:ni/ *noun* [noncount] : a type of pasta that is shaped like long, thin ribbons

fe·tus or chiefly *Brit foe·tus* /'fi:təs/ *noun*, *pl* -tus-es [count] : a human being or animal in the later stages of development before it is born — compare EMBRYO

feud /'fju:d/ *noun*, *pl* feuds [count] : a long and angry fight or quarrel between two people or two groups • The workers' *feud* with management concerns health benefits and pay increases. • Because of a family *feud*, they did not see each other for a decade. — see also BLOOD FEUD

— **feud** *verb* feuds; feud-ed; feud-ing [no *obj*] • They

feuded (with each other) for years. • The estate is not settled because the family is still *feuding* over the will.

feu-dal /'fju:dəl/ *adj* : of or relating to feudalism • the *feudal* system • a *feudal* law/lord

feu-dal-ism /'fju:dəlɪzəm/ *noun* [noncount] : a social system that existed in Europe during the Middle Ages in which people worked and fought for nobles who gave them protection and the use of land in return

fe-ver /'fi:və/ *noun, pl -vers*

1 a : a body temperature that is higher than normal [count]

He has had a *fever* for two days. = He has been running a *fever* for two days. [noncount] The symptoms of the disease include headache and *fever*. **b** [count] : a disease that causes an increase in body temperature • She caught a *fever*. — see also HAY FEVER, RHEUMATIC FEVER, SCARLET FEVER, YELLOW FEVER

2 [singular] **a** : a state of excited emotion or activity • We waited in a *fever* of anticipation. • He had us all in a *fever* with worry. — see also CABIN FEVER, SPRING FEVER **b** : a state of great enthusiasm or interest • Every fall the town develops football *fever*. [=the town becomes very excited about football]

fever blister *noun, pl ~-ters* [count] US : COLD SORE

fe-vered /'fi:vəd/ *adj* [more ~; most ~]

1 : having or affected by a fever — usually used in the phrase *fevered brow* • She wiped the sweat from his *fevered* brow.

2 : very excited or active • *fevered* activity/experimentation • a *fevered* imagination

fe-ver-ish /'fi:vərɪʃ/ *adj* [more ~; most ~]

1 a : having a fever : suffering from a higher than normal body temperature caused by illness • She was feeling tired and *feverish*. **b** : of or relating to a fever • a *feverish* nightmare • He had a *feverish* appearance.

2 : involving intense emotion or activity : feeling or showing great or extreme excitement • We waited for the announcement with *feverish* [=eager] anticipation. • *feverish* [=hectic] activity

— **fe-ver-ish-ly** *adv* • We worked *feverishly* to prepare for the party.

fever pitch *noun* : a state of extreme excitement or activity [singular] I worked myself up to/into a *fever pitch* of enthusiasm. • New allegations brought interest in the scandal to a *fever pitch*. [noncount] Demand for the new car soon reached *fever pitch*.

¹few /'fju:/ *adj* **few-er; -est**

1 : not many • *Few* people came. • the next/last/past *few* weeks • I know (very) *few* people in the class. • Music is one of my (very) *few* pleasures. • He caught *fewer* fish than the rest of us. • There are *fewer* children at the school this year. • Not many people came, but the *few* people who did enjoyed themselves. • *Few* (if any) people understand me.

2 : not many but some — used in the phrase *a few* • Only/Just *a few* people came. • We went out for *a few* drinks after work. • I know *a few* people in the class. • The train leaves in *a few* minutes. ✧ The phrases *quite a few* and, less commonly, *not a few* or (chiefly Brit) *a good few* all mean “fairly many.” • *Quite a few* students from our high school go on to college.

as few as — used to suggest that a number or amount is surprisingly small • The procedure is recommended by *as few as* [=only] one out of five doctors. • *As few as* half the students passed the test.

few and far between : not common or frequent • Really good movies are *few and far between*. [=there are not many really good movies] • Opportunities like that are *few and far between*.

no fewer than : at least — used to suggest that a number or amount is surprisingly large • *No fewer than* 1,000 people attended the meeting. • *No fewer than* 80 percent of registered voters turned out for the primary.

of few words ✧ A person *of few words* is someone who does not talk very much. • a man/woman *of few words*

²few *pronoun*

1 : not many people or things • (Very) *Few* came. • His stories may be entertaining, but *few* (if any) are true. = They may be entertaining, but *few* (if any) of his stories are true. • There are many students in the class, but I know very *few* (of them). • “Never... was so much owed by so many to so *few*.” —Sir Winston Churchill, Speech (August, 1940)

2 : some people or things — used in the phrase *a few* • *A few* came. • I bought several magazines and I read *a few* (of

them). • Unfortunately, *a few* of the people who came failed to enjoy themselves. • We gave away most of the photographs but we kept *a few* (of them). • They sold *a few* of the books. • She met *a few* of my relatives. ✧ The phrases *quite a few* and, less commonly, *not a few* or (chiefly Brit) *a good few* all mean “fairly many.” • Not all our students go on to college, but *quite a few* (of them) do. [=a large number of our students do]

3 : a small number of people or things that are chosen or regarded as special or unusual in some way • A select *few* will receive advance tickets. • A sophisticated movie like this only appeals to the discriminating *few*.

have a few or have a few too many *informal* : to have too many alcoholic drinks • We could tell from his slurred speech that he'd *had a few*. • It looks like she *had a few too many*.

¹few-er /'fju:wə/ *adj* : not so many : a smaller number of • I take *fewer* (and *fewer*) vacations every year. • He teaches (many) *fewer* classes than I do. *usage* see ¹LESS

²fewer *pronoun* : a smaller number of people or things • *Fewer* came than were expected. • Few know and (even) *fewer* care about local history. • *Fewer* than 50 percent of registered voters turned out for the primary.

fez /'fez/ *noun, pl fez-zes* [count] : a type of round red hat that has a flat top and no brim ✧ Fezzes are worn by men in some Middle Eastern countries.

fi-an-cé /,fi:,ɑ:n'sei, fi'ɑ:n'sei/ *noun, pl -cés* [count] : a man that a woman is engaged to be married to • Let me introduce my *fiancé*.

fi-an-cée /,fi:,ɑ:n'sei, fi'ɑ:n'sei/ *noun, pl -cées* [count] : a woman that a man is engaged to be married to • My *fiancée* and I will be married in June.

fi-as-co /fi'æskou/ *noun, pl -coes* [count] : a complete failure or disaster • The party turned into a complete/utter *fiasco*. • a political *fiasco*

fi-at /'fi:ət, 'faɪ,æt/ *noun, pl -ats* *formal* : an official order given by someone who has power : an order that must be followed [count] a judicial *fiat* [noncount] He runs the company *by fiat* • government *by fiat*

¹fib /'fib/ *noun, pl fibs* [count] *informal* : an untrue statement about something minor or unimportant • I have to admit that I told a *fib* when I said I enjoyed the movie. • Is she telling *fibs* again?

²fib *verb* **fibs; fibbed; fib-bing** [no obj] *informal* : to tell a fib : to make an untrue statement about something minor or unimportant • I *fibbed* when I said that I enjoyed the movie. • He *fibbed* about his weight.

fi-ber (US) or **Brit fi-bre** /'faɪbə/ *noun, pl -bers*

1 [noncount] : plant material that cannot be digested but that helps you to digest other food • It's important to get enough *fiber* in your diet. • dietary *fiber* • What foods do you recommend as good sources of *fiber*? • foods that are high in *fiber*

2 a : a thin thread of natural or artificial material that can be used to make cloth, paper, etc. [count] The fabric is made from a mix of synthetic *fibers*. • The natural *fibers* allow the fabric to breathe. [noncount] The paper is made from both cotton and wood *fiber*. **b** : material (such as cloth) that is made from thin threads : something made of fibers [count] Nylon is a very strong man-made *fiber*. [noncount] The police examined hair and bits of *fiber* found in the victim's car.

3 [count] : a long, thin piece of material that forms a type of tissue in your body • muscle/nerve *fibers*

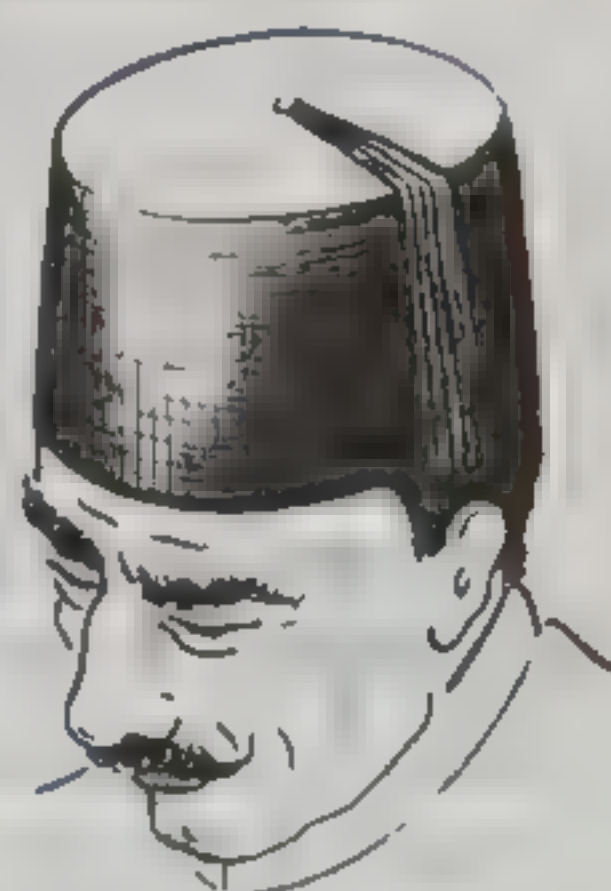
4 [noncount] *formal* : strength or toughness of character • cultural changes that have weakened the *moral fiber* of our nation's youth

with every fiber of your being : with all of your effort or desire • She wanted to be a doctor *with every fiber of her being*. • He fought *with every fiber of his being* for freedom.

fi-ber-board (US) or **Brit fi-bre-board** /'faɪbə,boəd/ *noun* [noncount] : a type of board made by pressing fibers of wood into stiff sheets

fi-ber-glass (US) or **Brit fi-bre-glass** /'faɪbə,glæs, Brit 'faɪbə,glɑ:s/ *noun* [noncount] : a light and strong material that is made from thin threads of glass and that is used in making various products — often used before another noun • a *fiberglass* boat

fiber optics (US) or **Brit fibre optics** *noun* [noncount] *technical* : the use of thin threads of glass or plastic to carry



fez

very large amounts of information in the form of light signals

— **fi-ber-op-tic** (US) or **Brit fi-bre-op-tic** /'faɪbə,ɒptɪk/ *adj, technical* • a *fiber-optic* cable/network

fi-brous /'faɪbrəs/ *adj* [more ~; most ~] : containing, made of, or resembling fibers • He had surgery to remove *fibrous* scar tissue in his knee. • The vegetable has a *fibrous* [=stringy, tough] texture.

fib-u-la /'fɪbjələ/ *noun, pl -lae /-li/ or -las* [count] *medical* : the outer one of the two bones below the knee in a person's leg — see picture at HUMAN

fick-le /'fɪkəl/ *adj* [more ~; most ~]

1 : changing often • *fickle* weather

2 *disapproving* : changing opinions often • *fickle* friends/supporters • He blames poor sales on *fickle* consumers.

— **fick-le-ness** *noun* [noncount] • the *fickleness* of the weather

fic-tion /'fɪkʃən/ *noun, pl -tions*

1 [noncount] : written stories about people and events that are not real : literature that tells stories which are imagined by the writer • She mainly writes *fiction*. • great works of *fiction* — compare NONFICTION; see also SCIENCE FICTION

2 : something that is not true [noncount] His explanation of what happened was pure *fiction*. [=was completely untrue] [count] She believes the *fiction* that crime rates are up.

— **fic-tion-al** /'fɪkʃənəl/ *adj* • a *fictional* character/place • She wrote a *fictional* account of a family living during the war.

fic-tion-al-ize also **Brit fic-tion-al-ise** /'fɪkʃənəlaɪz/ *verb -izes; -ized; -izing* [+ obj] : to change (a true story) into fiction by changing or adding details • The book is a *fictionalized* account of their travels. • Her books are based in fact, but she *fictionalizes* many of the events.

— **fic-tion-al-i-za-tion** also **Brit fic-tion-al-i-sa-tion** /,fɪkʃənələ'zeɪʃən, Brit /,fɪkʃənəlaɪ'zeɪʃən/ *noun, pl -tions* [count, noncount] • the *fictionalization* of a true story

fic-ti-tious /fɪk'tɪʃəs/ *adj* : not true or real • a *fictitious* story • The characters in the book are all *fictitious*. • She gave a *fictitious* address on the application.

fid-dle /'fɪdl/ *noun, pl fid-dles* [count] *informal*

1 : VIOLIN • an expert with/on the *fiddle*

2 **Brit** : a dishonest way of getting money : SWINDLE, SCAM • arrested for a tax *fiddle*

fit as a fiddle see ¹FIT

play second fiddle : to have a less important position or status than someone or something else : to be regarded or treated as less important • a former star athlete who is not happy to *play second fiddle* as he nears the end of his career — often + *to* • He's not happy to *play second fiddle* to the younger players on the team.

fiddle *verb* **fid-dles; fid-dled; fid-dling** /'fɪdlɪŋ/

1 [no obj] *informal* : to play a violin • Nero *fiddled* while Rome burned. — used especially to describe playing folk music, country music, etc., on a violin • a *fiddling* competition

2 [+ obj] *chiefly Brit, informal* : to secretly change (something, such as information) in a harmful or dishonest way • *fiddle* [=fudge] the accounts/books

fiddle around or *chiefly Brit fiddle about* [*phrasal verb*] : to spend time in activity that does not have a real purpose • They spent hours just *fiddling* [=fooling] around when they should have been working.

fiddle with [*phrasal verb*] **fiddle with (something)** 1 : to move or handle (something) with your hands or fingers in a nervous way • She was nervously *fiddling with* her pen as she waited for the test to start. 2 : to change or handle (something, such as the controls of a machine) in a way that shows you are not sure what to do • He was *fiddling* [=tinkering] with the controls of the television, trying to get it to work. 3 : to change (something) in a harmful or foolish way • It became clear that someone had *fiddled* [=tampered] with the equipment.

— **fid-dler** /'fɪdlə/ *noun, pl fid-dlers* [count] • an expert/champion *fiddler* • (**Brit**) *tax fiddlers* [=people who lie to avoid paying taxes]

fid-dle-sticks /'fɪdlstɪks/ *interj, informal + old-fashioned* — used to express mild anger or disagreement • “I had nothing to do with it.” “Oh, *fiddlesticks*! I know you did.”

fid-dly /'fɪdli/ *adj* **fid-dli-er; -dli-est** [or more ~; most ~] *chiefly Brit, informal* : awkward or difficult to handle because of many small parts or details • connecting up all the wires and the other *fiddly* bits

fi-del-i-ty /fə'deləti/ *noun* [noncount]

1 **a** : the quality of being faithful to your husband, wife, or sexual partner • She began to doubt her husband's *fidelity*. [=to wonder if he was having an affair with another woman] • sexual *fidelity* — often + *to* • his *fidelity* to his wife — opposite INFIDELITY **b** : the quality of being faithful or loyal to a country, organization, etc. — usually + *to* • No one can doubt his *fidelity* [=devotion] to his country.

2 : the degree to which something matches or copies something else — + *to* • The movie's director insisted on total *fidelity* to the book. [=insisted that the story told in the movie should accurately copy the story told in the book]

3 : the degree to which a device (such as a CD player, radio, or television) correctly reproduces sounds, pictures, etc. • music with much higher *fidelity* than on cassettes • a printer with outstanding color *fidelity* [=a printer that produces very accurate colors] — see also HIGH FIDELITY

fidg-et /'fɪdʒət/ *verb -ets; -et-ed; -et-ing* [no obj] : to make a lot of small movements because you are nervous, bored, etc. : to move or act in a nervous or restless way • He was constantly *fidgeting* in his chair.

fidget with [*phrasal verb*] **fidget with (something)** : to move or handle (something) with your hands and fingers in a nervous way • He was *fidgeting* [=fiddling] with his tie before the presentation.

fidg-ety /'fɪdʒəti/ *adj* [more ~; most ~] : moving a lot because of nervousness, boredom, etc. : tending to fidget • He grew more *fidgety* with each passing hour. • Coffee makes me *fidgety*. [=jumpy, restless]

fi-du-ci-ary /fə'duːʃɪəri, Brit fɪ'djuːʃɪəri/ *adj, formal* : relating to or involving trust (such as the trust between a customer and a professional) • a *fiduciary* capacity/duty • a bank's *fiduciary* obligations

fief /'fiːf/ *noun, pl fiefs* [count] : a large area of land that was ruled over by a lord in medieval times : a feudal estate — sometimes used figuratively • a politician's *fief* [=fiefdom]

fief-dom /'fiːfdəm/ *noun, pl -doms* [count] : an area over which a person has control • The coaches viewed their school districts as personal *fiefdoms*.

¹**field** /'fiːld/ *noun, pl fields* [count]

1 a : an open area of land without trees or buildings • He gazed out across the *fields*. • a grassy/muddy *field* • green *fields* • an open *field* — see also ICE FIELD **b** : an area of land that has a special use • farm *fields* • a *field* of wheat = a wheat *field* • cotton/tobacco *fields* — see color picture on page C7; see also OIL FIELD

2 : an area of work, study, etc. • She hopes to find work in the health *field*. • She is a pioneer/leader in the *field* of genetic research. • a lawyer who is eminent in his *field* • working in his chosen *field* • *fields* of learning/interest/study • a fascinating *field* of endeavor

3 **a** : an area of land that is used for sports • football/athletic/baseball/soccer *fields* • a ball *field* • The home team *took the field*. [=ran out onto the field to begin play] • Spectators are not allowed on the *field of play*. [=playing field] • The team has been tough to beat on its *home field*. [=its own field where it plays in front of its fans] ♦ In a baseball or cricket game, when one team is batting the other team is *in the field*. — see also CENTER FIELD, FIELD EVENT, LEFT FIELD, PLAYING FIELD, RIGHT FIELD, TRACK AND FIELD **b** ♦ In basketball a shot taken *from the field* is a shot taken during ordinary play rather than a free throw. • They shot well *from the field* but they missed too many free throws.

4 : the area where work is done away from a laboratory, office, etc. • archaeologists/salesmen working in the *field* — often used before another noun • She will be doing *field* research in South America. • *field* studies • The product has been tested under *field* conditions of actual use. • *field* workers — see also FIELD-TEST, FIELDWORK

5 : the group of people, horses, teams, etc., that are in a race or other competition • a race with a large *field* of runners • The presidential election has attracted a large *field* of candidates. • She was *leading/trailing the field* by a wide margin. — often used figuratively • The company is working hard to *stay/keep ahead of the field*. [=to continue to be more successful than its competitors]

6 : a place where battles and other military activities happen • the *field* of battle • soldiers in the *field* — see also BATTLEFIELD, LANDING FIELD, MINEFIELD

7 : a region or space in which an effect or force (such as gravity, electricity, or magnetism) exists • an electric/magnetic *field*

8 : an area in which a particular type of information is

placed • You must complete all *fields* before submitting the form. • (*computers*) The database is separated into several different *fields*.

9 : FIELD OF VISION • Nothing moved within his visual *field*. — see also FIELD OF VIEW

play the field see ¹PLAY

2 *field* *verb* **fields; field-ed; field-ing** [+ *obj*]

1 *baseball or cricket* : to catch or stop and throw a ball • The shortstop *fielded* the ground ball. • a *fielding* error; *also* : to play (a position) on a baseball team • a shortstop who *fields* his position flawlessly

2 **a** : to deal with or respond to (something, such as a telephone call or a request) • Last week she *fielded* two offers on her house. • His secretary will *field* requests for more information. **b** : to give an answer to (a question) • The senator *fielded* the reporters' questions.

3 : to put (a team, army, etc.) into the field to compete or fight • They expect to *field* a strong team this year. • the greatest fighting force that any nation has ever *fielded*

field day *noun*, *pl* ~ **days** [*count*] : a day of outdoor sports and athletic competition for school children • the fifth grade's annual *field day*

have a field day : to get a lot of pleasure and enjoyment from doing something — used especially to describe getting enjoyment from criticizing someone, making fun of someone, etc. • If word of his involvement in this scandal ever leaks out, the newspapers are going to *have a field day*. • Journalists have *had a field day* with this scandal.

field-er /'fi:ldə/ *noun*, *pl* **-ers** [*count*] *baseball or cricket* : a player who is in the field while the opposing team is batting

field event *noun*, *pl* ~ **events** [*count*] : an event in a track meet that is not a race • a discus thrower who excelled at all the *field events*

field glasses *noun* [*plural*] : BINOCULARS

field goal *noun*, *pl* ~ **goals** [*count*]

1 *American football* : a score of three points made by kicking the ball between the goalposts • He kicked a 20-yard *field goal*. • They've won three games by less than a *field goal*. [=by fewer than three points]

2 *basketball* : BASKET **2b** • a three-point *field goal*

field guide *noun*, *pl* ~ **guides** [*count*] : a book that helps you to identify birds, plants, animals, rocks, etc. • a *field guide* to the birds

field hand *noun*, *pl* ~ **hands** [*count*] *US* : a person who is hired to work on a farm : FARMHAND

field hockey *noun* [*noncount*] *US + Canada* : a game that is played on a field in which each team uses curved sticks to try to hit the ball into the opponent's goal — called also (*chiefly Brit*) *hockey*; compare ICE HOCKEY

field house *noun*, *pl* ~ **houses** [*count*] *US* : a large building that is used for athletic events and that usually has seats for spectators

field marshal *noun*, *pl* ~ **-shals** [*count*] : the highest ranking military officer in the British Army

field mouse *noun*, *pl* ~ **mice** [*count*] : a type of mouse that lives in open fields

field of view *noun*, *pl* **fields of view** [*count*]

1 : the area that can be seen when you look through a telescope, a pair of binoculars, etc. • the telescope's *field of view*

2 : FIELD OF VISION

field of vision *noun*, *pl* **fields of vision** [*count*] : the area that you can see without moving your eyes • He ran right through my *field of vision*. • She has a blind spot in the middle of her *field of vision*.

field-stone /'fi:ld,stoun/ *noun*, *pl* **-stones** [*count*] : a stone that is taken from a field and used in its natural form • They used plain *fieldstones* as grave markers. — often used before another noun • a *fieldstone* fireplace

field-test /'fi:ld,tɛst/ *verb* **-tests; -test-ed; -test-ing** [+ *obj*] : to test (something, such as a product) by using it in the actual conditions it was designed for • These products need to be thoroughly *field-tested* before we can begin using them. — **field test** *noun*, *pl* ~ **tests** [*count*] • doing a *field test* of the prototype

field trip *noun*, *pl* ~ **trips** [*count*] : a visit to a place (such as a museum or zoo) that is made by students to learn about something • We took a class *field trip* to the power plant. • We went on a *field trip*.

field-work /'fi:ld,wɜ:k/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the work of gathering information by going into the field (sense 4) • an anthropologist who has done *fieldwork* in the South Pacific

fiend /'fi:nd/ *noun*, *pl* **fiends** [*count*]

1 **a** : an evil spirit : a demon or devil **b** : a very evil or cruel person • a murderous *fiend* • a *fiend* in human form

2 *informal* **a** : a person who is very enthusiastic about something : FANATIC • He's a real golf *fiend*. • a fresh air *fiend* • He's a *fiend* for physical fitness. [=he is very devoted to physical fitness] **b** : a person who is addicted to a drug or to a kind of behavior • a dope/drug *fiend* [=addict] • a sex *fiend*

like a fiend chiefly US, informal — used to say that someone does a lot of something • She's been working *like a fiend* [=working very hard] • He smokes *like a fiend*.

fiend-ish /'fi:ndɪʃ/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]

1 : very evil or cruel • a *fiendish* murderer • He takes a *fiendish* delight in hurting people. • a *fiendish* contraption • a *fiendish* [=diabolical] plot to destroy the world

2 : extremely bad, unpleasant, or difficult • *fiendish* weather • a *fiendish* problem

— **fiend-ish-ly** *adv* • a *fiendishly* clever plot • a *fiendishly* hot sun • a *fiendishly* coldhearted murderer • *fiendishly* complex tools and machinery — **fiend-ish-ness** *noun* [*noncount*] • a plot of incredible *fiendishness*

fierce /'fiə:/ *adj* **fierc-er; -est**

1 **a** : very violent • He was killed in a *fierce* battle. • a *fierce* assault/attack • *fierce* combat/fighting **b** : eager to fight or kill • a *fierce* tiger/warrior • a *fierce* fighter

2 : having or showing a lot of strong emotion : very strong or intense • a *fierce* argument/struggle • The proposal has faced *fierce* opposition. • The two teams have had a *fierce* rivalry for many years. • *fierce* enthusiasm • He's admired for his *fierce* independence. • She's a *fierce* competitor. • You could see the *fierce* determination in her eyes.

3 : very harsh or powerful • a *fierce* desert wind • a *fierce* heat wave • a *fierce* storm/squall • She was suffering through *fierce* [=excruciating] pain.

something fierce US, informal : very badly or very much • I miss her *something fierce*. [=tremendously] • I need a vacation *something fierce*.

— **fierce-ly** *adv* [*more* ~; *most* ~] • He has been *fiercely* denounced by his former associates. • a *fiercely* partisan/independent voter • the *fiercely* hot sun • *fiercely* protective/loyal — **fierce-ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

fi-ery /'fajəri/ *adj* **fi-er-i-er; -est** [*or more* ~; *most* ~]

1 : having or producing fire • the *fiery* [=blazing] interior of the furnace • He was killed in a *fiery* crash/explosion. • a *fiery* volcano

2 *of food* : tasting very hot and spicy • *fiery* chili peppers • a *fiery* sauce

3 **a** : having or showing a lot of strong and angry emotion • a *fiery* speech/sermon • a *fiery* young politician • *fiery* determination **b** : easily made angry • He has a *fiery* temper. [=he becomes angry very easily]

4 : having the color of fire • a *fiery* sunset • a *fiery* red/orange color

— **fi-er-i-ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

fi-es-ta /fi'ɛstə/ *noun*, *pl* **-tas** [*count*] : a public celebration in Spain and Latin America with parades and dances in honor of a saint

fife /'faɪf/ *noun*, *pl* **fifes** [*count*] : a musical instrument that looks like a small flute

fif-teen /,fɪf'ti:n/ *noun*, *pl* **-teens** [*count*] : the number 15

— **fifteen** *adj* • *fifteen* dollars — **fifteen** *pronoun* • Only *fifteen* (of them) showed up on time. — **fif-teenth** /,fɪf'ti:nθ/ *noun*, *pl* **-teenths** [*count*] • the *fifteenth* of September • one *fifteenth* of the total — **fifteenth** *adj* • the *fifteenth* day — **fifteenth** *adv* • Their boat finished *fifteenth*.

¹fifth /'fɪθ, 'fɪfθ/ *noun*, *pl* **fifths**

1 [*singular*] : number five in a series • The bill is due on the *fifth* of each month.

2 [*count*] : one of five equal parts of something • She donated a *fifth* of her income to charity.

3 [*count*] : a unit of measure for alcoholic liquor that is equal to one fifth of a U.S. gallon (approximately 750 ml); *also* : a bottle that holds this amount of liquor • bought a *fifth* of whiskey

take/plead the Fifth chiefly US : to refuse to answer questions in a court of law because your answers might be harmful to you or might show that you have committed a crime • When called to testify, he *took the Fifth*. — often used figuratively • He *took the Fifth* [=he refused to answer] when his wife asked him where he'd spent the night. ♦ The phrase *take/plead the Fifth* refers to the Fifth Amendment

of the U.S. Constitution, which says that citizens of the U.S. cannot be required to give testimony that could be used against them in a court of law.

2nd fifth *adj* : occupying the number five position in a series • the *fifth* dancer in the line • the *fifth* annual awards banquet — **fifth** *adv* • the nation's *fifth* largest city • She finished *fifth* in the race.

fifth wheel *noun, pl ~ wheels* [*count*] *informal* : an extra person who is not needed in a group • He felt more and more like a *fifth wheel* at the office.

fif-ty /'fifti/ *noun, pl -ties*

1 [*count*] : the number 50

2 **fifties** [*plural*] **a** : the numbers ranging from 50 to 59 **b** : a set of years ending in digits ranging from 50 to 59 • She is in her *fifties*. • He fondly remembers growing up in the *fifties*. [=1950–1959]

3 [*count*] **US** : a fifty-dollar bill • The bill for dinner came to \$43, and she gave him a *fifty*.

— **fif-ti-eth** /'fiftiəθ/ *adj* • their *fiftieth* wedding anniversary — **fiftieth** *noun, pl -eths* [*count*] • one *fiftieth* of the total — **fifty** *adj* • *fifty* cars in the parking lot — **fifty** *pronoun* • *Fifty* (of them) were wounded in battle. — **fif-ty-ish** /'fiftijʃ/ *adj* • He looked *fiftyish*. [=about 50 years old]

fif-ty–fif-ty /,fifti'fifti/ *adj*

1 : shared equally • a *fifty-fifty* split [=an equal split] • a *fifty-fifty* blend of cotton and polyester

2 : equally good and bad • We have a *fifty-fifty* chance of succeeding. [=we are as likely to succeed as we are to fail]

— **fifty–fifty** *adv* • They divided/split the expenses *fifty-fifty*. [=equally]

fig /'fig/ *noun, pl figs* [*count*]

1 : a sweet fruit that grows on a tree and that is usually eaten dry — see color picture on page C5

2 *informal + old-fashioned* : anything at all — usually used in negative statements • He *doesn't care a fig* [=doesn't care at all] about what others think. • I *don't give a fig* whether he comes or goes.

fig. *abbr* figure

1st fight /'faɪt/ *verb* **fight**s; **fought** /'fɔ:t/; **fight-ing**

1 **a** : to use weapons or physical force to try to hurt someone, to defeat an enemy, etc. : to struggle in battle or physical combat [*no obj*] The soldiers *fought* bravely. • When he was young he was always *fighting*. • He *fought* like a tiger. • The U.S. and Germany *fought* in World Wars I and II. — often + *against* • The U.S. *fought against* Germany in World Wars I and II. [+ *obj*] They vowed to *fight* the invaders of their homeland. • The U.S. *fought* Germany in World Wars I and II. **b** [+ *obj*] : to be involved in (a battle, struggle, etc.) • *fight* [=wage] a war/battle for independence • *fighting* a duel • I think we're *fighting a losing battle*. [=we are trying to do something that we will not be able to do]

2 [*no obj*] : to argue in an angry way • He and his wife are always *fighting* over/about money. • They *fight* (with each other) all the time.

3 [*no obj*] : to try hard to do something that is difficult • They were *fighting* [=struggling] to stay awake/alive. • We were *fighting* to protect our jobs.

4 **a** : to work hard to defeat, end, or prevent something [*no obj*] *fighting* against poverty • *fighting* against AIDS/cancer/crime [+ *obj*] *fighting* poverty • The company *fought* the takeover attempt. • His lawyers have vowed that they will *fight* the court's decision. • *fight* a fire • *fight* crime. **b** [+ *obj*] : to struggle against (something) • I've been *fighting* a cold all week. • We had to *fight* traffic [=to drive through a lot of traffic] all the way home.

5 [+ *obj*] : to try not to be affected by (a feeling, urge, etc.) • He was *fighting* the urge/impulse to laugh. [=he was trying not to laugh]

6 : to participate in the sport of boxing [*no obj*] He will *fight* for the heavyweight title next month. [+ *obj*] He has *fought* several worthy opponents. • He *fought* several difficult matches on his way to the title.

fight back [*phrasal verb*] **1** : to attack or try to defeat someone who is attacking or trying to defeat you • We can't just let them make these accusations against us. We need to *fight back*! **2** : to make a new effort against an opponent • They fell behind early in the game, but they were able to *fight back* and tie the score in the second half. — see also **FIGHTBACK** **3** ♦ Someone who is *fighting back tears* is trying very hard not to cry. • He was *fighting back tears* as he announced his resignation.

fight fire with fire : to fight against an opponent by using

the same methods or weapons that the opponent uses

fight for [*phrasal verb*] **fight for (something)** **1** : to fight in support of (something) • young soldiers *fighting for* their country • This is a cause that's worth *fighting for*. **2** : to fight or struggle to get, keep, or achieve (something) • The team is *fighting for* a spot in the play-offs. • The two armies *fought* all night for control of the fort. • We are *fighting for* our rights as citizens. • They had to *fight for* survival. • When they brought him to the hospital, he was *fighting for breath*. [=he was struggling to breathe] • Her condition is very serious. She's *fighting for her life*. [=she is struggling to survive; she is in danger of dying]

fight it out **1** : to be in a fight • People were *fighting it out* over parking spaces. **2** : to end a dispute by fighting or arguing • This matter won't be settled until the lawyers *fight it out* in court.

fight like cats and dogs (*chiefly US*) or **Brit fight like cat and dog** *informal* : to fight or argue a lot or in a very forceful and angry way • a married couple who are always *fighting like cats and dogs*

fight off [*phrasal verb*] **fight (someone or something) off** or **fight off (someone or something)** : to defend yourself against (someone or something) by fighting or struggling : to avoid being harmed or overcome by (someone or something) by fighting or struggling • They *fought off* the attack/attackers. • I'm trying to *fight off* a cold.

fight on [*phrasal verb*] : to continue fighting • He vowed that he would *fight on* alone.

fight shy of see **1st SHY**

fight the good fight : to try very hard to do what is right • He has always *fought the good fight* against oppression.

fight with [*phrasal verb*] **fight with (someone or something)**

1 : to fight against (someone or something) • He *fought with* his wife over/about money. • The U.S. *fought with* Germany in World Wars I and II. • He *fought with* several worthy opponents. **2** : to fight on the same side as (someone or something) • The U.S. *fought* (together) *with* the Soviet Union in World War II. **3** : to fight by using (something, such as a weapon) • They were *fighting with* knives. • They *fought with* their fists.

fight your way : to move forward or make progress by pushing, fighting, or struggling • He *fought his way* through the crowd. • They've had to *fight their way* through a lot of red tape to get the project approved.

— **fighting** *adj* • a powerful *fighting* force • a *fighting* ship • They admired his *fighting* [=aggressive] spirit. — see also **fighting chance** at **1st CHANCE** ♦ **Fighting words** are angry or insulting words that are likely to cause a fight. ♦ In U.S. English, someone who is *fighting mad* is angry enough to fight. • Some voters are *fighting mad* about the outcome of the election. — **fighting** *noun* [*noncount*] • *Fighting* has broken out along the border. • There are reports of (heavy) *fighting* between rival factions.

2nd fight *noun, pl fights*

1 [*count*] : a violent physical struggle between opponents • A *fight* broke out in the bar. • a bar *fight* • a street *fight* • a knife *fight* [=a fight using knives] • When he was young he was always getting into *fights*. • It would be foolish to *pick a fight* [=start a fight] with that guy. • a *pillow fight* [=a playful fight using pillows as weapons] • a *food fight* [=a playful fight in which people throw food at each other] • a *snowball fight* — see also **BULLFIGHT**, **DOGFIGHT**, **FIREFIGHT**, **FISTFIGHT**, **GUNFIGHT**

2 [*count*] : an argument or quarrel • He got into another *fight* with his wife about money.

3 [*count*] : a boxing match • a *fight* for the heavyweight title — see also **PRIZEFIGHT**

4 [*count*] : a struggle to achieve a goal or to defeat something or someone • We didn't win, but at least we put up a good *fight*. • They are leading/joining the *fight* against cancer. • the *fight* to defeat cancer • He's in the *fight* of his political life in this election. • She's *in a fight for her life*. [=she is struggling to stay alive]

5 [*noncount*] : a willingness to fight • full of *fight*

fight-back /'faɪt,bæk/ *noun, pl -backs* [*count*] **Brit** : a new effort to win or succeed after being close to defeat or failure : **COMEBACK** • The team staged a *fightback* in the second half. — see also *fight back* at **1st FIGHT**

fight-er /'faɪtə/ *noun, pl -ers* [*count*] : someone or something that fights: such as **a** : a warrior or soldier • national-ist *fighters* — see also **FREEDOM FIGHTER** **b** : **BOXER** 1 • a championship *fighter* **c** : someone who does not give up : someone who continues fighting or trying • Despite every-

thing, you'll survive because you're a (real) *fighter*! **d** : a fast airplane that has weapons for destroying enemy aircraft • a jet *fighter* • a *fighter* plane • a *fighter* pilot

fig leaf *noun*, *pl* ~ *leaves* [count]

1 : the leaf of a fig tree ✧ In works of art, such as paintings and sculptures, naked people have sometimes been shown with a fig leaf covering their sexual organs.

2 : something that prevents embarrassment or criticism by covering or hiding something • Opponents claim that the humanitarian goals of the project are just a *fig leaf*, and that its real purpose is to make money.

fig-ment /'fɪgmənt/ *noun*, *pl* -ments [count] : something produced by the imagination : something that does not really exist — usually used in the phrase *figment of your imagination* • I thought I heard her voice, but I guess it was just a *figment of my imagination*.

fig-u-ra-tive /'fɪgjərətɪv/ *adj*

1 of words, language, etc. : used with a meaning that is different from the basic meaning and that expresses an idea in an interesting way by using language that usually describes something else : not literal • The phrase “know your ropes” means literally “to know a lot about ropes,” while its *figurative* meaning is “to know a lot about how to do something.” • *figurative* language

2 : showing people and things in a way that resembles how they really look : not abstract • *figurative* art

fig-u-ra-tive-ly /'fɪgjərətɪvli/ *adv* : in a figurative way : with a meaning that is different from the basic or literal meaning and that expresses an idea by using language that usually describes something else • He's a sailor who knows his ropes, literally and *figuratively*. • In the phrase “know your ropes,” the word “ropes” is being used *figuratively*.

1 fig-ure /'fɪgjə, Brit 'fɪgə/ *noun*, *pl* -ures [count]

1 a : a symbol that represents a number : DIGIT • He has a six-figure salary. [=he has a salary of at least \$100,000] **b** : a value that is expressed in numbers • Are you sure of your *figures*? • I came up with a very different *figure*. • No precise/exact/official *figures* are available yet. • The company had yearly sales *figures* of half a million units. ✧ If you *have a good head for figures*, you are good at making calculations with numbers. If you *have no head for figures*, you are bad at making calculations with numbers. • She *has a good head for figures*, so I'm not surprised that she became an accountant.

2 a : a person or animal that can be seen only as a shape or outline • We could barely make out some *figures* moving in the mist. **b** : the shape or form of a person's body • the human *figure* • the male/female *figure* ✧ *Figure* in this sense usually refers to women rather than men. • She has a very shapely *figure*. [=body] • a full *figure* • a slim, youthful *figure* • She likes to wear clothes that show off her *figure*. **c** ✧ The phrases *a fine figure of a man* and (less commonly) *a fine figure of a woman* describe someone who is tall and has a strong and well-formed body. • The football coach is *a fine figure of a man*.

3 : a drawing, sculpture, etc., that represents the form of a person or animal • The vase is decorated with *figures* of birds and fish. • The walls of the cave are covered with drawings of human and animal *figures*. • a male/female *figure* • a collection of bronze/carved *figures* • a cardboard *figure* • a cartoon *figure* — see also STICK FIGURE

4 : a person who has a specified status or who is regarded in a specified way • a noted/familiar/popular/prominent sports *figure* • He began by writing letters to well-known *figures* in journalism. • a mysterious/shadowy *figure* • She's a key *figure* in the organization. • He has become a *figure of contempt*. [=someone who is regarded with contempt] • a *figure of fun/ridicule* [=someone who is laughed at or ridiculed] • a *figure of authority* = an *authority figure* [=a person who has authority over other people] — see also ACTION FIGURE, FATHER FIGURE, MOTHER FIGURE

5 a : a diagram or picture • Turn your attention to the *figure* on page 15. — abbr. *fig.* **b mathematics** : a combination of points, lines, or surfaces in geometry • A circle is a closed plane *figure*. • geometric *figures*

2 figure *verb* -ures; -ured; -ur-ing

1 [+ *obj*] : to expect or think (something) • I *figured* (that) they would lose. [=I expected them to lose] • I *figured* [=thought] he'd get tired of it in a few days. • The media *figured* that she would be the appointee. = The media *figured* her to be the appointee. • “They lost.” “I *figured* as much.” • (US) He *figured* [=expected] to lose money in the deal.

2 US, informal a [+ *obj*] : to understand or find (something,

such as a reason) by thinking • Their reasons for doing this are hard to *figure*. [=figure out] • I've finally *figured* [=figured out] a way to manage my time better. • We've got to *figure* [=find] a way out of this mess. **b** [no *obj*] : to appear likely to do something • She *figures to finish* by noon. • He doesn't *figure to win*. [=he probably won't win]

3 [no *obj*] : to be or appear important : to have an important part in something • The debate over tax rates *figured* prominently in the last election.

4 [+ *obj*] : to calculate (an amount, cost, etc.) • He *figured* the cost at about \$10,000. • The cost in dollars is easily *figured*.

5 [no *obj*] chiefly US, informal : to seem reasonable, normal, or expected • His explanation just doesn't *figure*. [=add up, make sense] • It *figures* [=it is not surprising] that he would be late today. • “He's late.” “Well, it *figures*.” • That *figures*. [=that doesn't surprise me]

figure in [phrasal verb] **1 figure (something) in or figure in (something) US** : to include (something) while making calculations • When they were preparing a budget, they forgot to *figure in* [=factor in] occasional travel expenses. **2 figure in (something)** : to be involved in (something, such as an activity) • persons who *figured in* the robbery

figure into [phrasal verb] **figure into (something) US** : to be included as a part of (something) • Age may *figure into* the equation.

figure on [phrasal verb] **figure on (something) US, informal** **1** : to expect to get or have (something) • They weren't *figuring on* the extra income. **2** : to plan to do (something) • I *figure on* going [=I plan to go] downtown later today.

figure out [phrasal verb] **1 figure out (something) or figure (something) out a** : to understand or find (something, such as a reason or a solution) by thinking • I'm trying to *figure out* a way to do it. • He claims he has it all *figured out*. • I finally *figured it out*. • I can't *figure out* why he does these crazy things. **b** : to find an answer or solution for (something, such as a problem) • *figure out* [=solve] a math problem **2 figure (someone) out or figure out (someone)** : to understand the behavior of (someone) • He does these crazy things, and I just can't *figure him out*.

go figure US, informal — used to say that something is surprising or hard to understand • After losing their first six games, they won the next ten. *Go figure*.

figure eight *noun*, *pl* ~ *eights* [count] US : something that is shaped like the numeral 8 • The skater traced a *figure eight* on the ice. — called also (Brit) *figure-of-eight*

fig-ure-head /'fɪgjə,hed, Brit 'fɪgə,hed/ *noun*, *pl* -heads [count]

1 : a carved figure (as of a woman) on a ship's bow • an elaborately carved *figurehead*

2 : a person who is called the head or chief of something but who has no real power • The king is merely a *figurehead*; the government is really run by elected officials.

figure-of-eight *noun*, *pl* *figures-of-eight* [count] Brit : FIGURE EIGHT

figure of speech *noun*, *pl* *figures of speech* [count] : a phrase or expression that uses words in a figurative way rather than in a plain or literal way • “You are the apple of my eye” is a *figure of speech*.

figure skate *noun*, *pl* ~ *skates* [count] : a special skate that is used for figure skating — see picture at SKATE

figure skating *noun* [noncount] : ice-skating in which the skaters perform various jumps, spins, and dance movements — **figure skater** *noun*, *pl* ~ *-ers* [count] • a champion *figure skater*

fig-u-rine /'fɪgjə'ri:n/ *noun*, *pl* -rines [count] : a small figure or model of a person made of wood, plastic, etc.

fil-a-ment /'fɪləmənt/ *noun*, *pl* -ments [count]

1 : a thin thread or hair • a slender *filament* • algae covered with tiny *filaments*

2 : a thin wire in a light bulb that glows when electricity passes through it

— **fil-a-men-tous** /'fɪlə'mentəs/ *adj*, technical • *filamentous* algae

fil-bert /'fɪlbət/ *noun*, *pl* -berts [count] chiefly US : HAZEL-NUT

filch /'fɪltʃ/ *verb* *filch-es*; *filched*; *filch-ing* [+ *obj*] informal : to steal (something that is small or that has little value) • He *filched* a pack of gum when no one was looking.

1 file /'faɪəl/ *noun*, *pl* *files* [count]

1 a : a device (such as a box, folder, or cabinet) in which documents that you want to keep are stored so that they can be found easily • He put each memo in its proper *file*. **b** : a

collection of documents that have information you want to keep and that are stored so that they can be found easily • The FBI has a large *file* on his activities. • She noticed that two employees' *files* were missing from the cabinet. ♦ Something that is *on file* is stored in a file. • We'll keep your resume *on file* in case a suitable job becomes available. • The company has several thousand customers *on file*.

2 : a collection of computer data that forms a single unit and that is given a particular name • You should save the *file* frequently as you do your work. • a word-processing *file* • He accidentally deleted some important *files*.

— compare ³FILE, ⁵FILE

²file *verb* **files; filed; filing**

1 [+ *obj*] : to put (a document) in a place where it can be found easily : to place (something) in a file • He *filed* each recipe for future reference. • I'm not sure what name this letter should be *filed* under. — often + *away* • She *filed away* each of his letters.

2 : to give (something, such as an official form or a legal document) to someone in authority so that it can be considered, dealt with, approved, etc. [+ *obj*] She had to *file* [=submit] dozens of forms to get a loan. • *file* a lawsuit • *file* a tax return • The policeman *filed* his report. [*no obj*] + *for* • She has *filed for* divorce/bankruptcy.

3 [+ *obj*] : to send (a story or report) to a newspaper • He *filed* a story incorrectly indicating that the strike was over.

— compare ⁴FILE, ⁶FILE

— **fil-er** /'faɪlə/ *noun*, *pl* **-ers** [*count*] • tax *filers* claiming deductions • typists and *filers*

³file *noun*, *pl* **files** [*count*] : a metal tool that has sharp ridges and that is used to make rough surfaces smooth — see picture at CARPENTRY; see also NAIL FILE — compare ¹FILE, ⁵FILE

⁴file *verb* **files; filed; fil-ing** [+ *obj*] : to make something smooth by using a file • He *filed away/down* the rough edges. • She *filed* the rough edges off her nails with a nail file. • She *filed* her nails. — compare ²FILE, ⁶FILE

⁵file *noun*, *pl* **files** [*count*] : a row of people, animals, or things that form a line • a *file* of soldiers • soldiers marching in *file* — compare ¹RANK; see also RANK AND FILE, SINGLE FILE — compare ¹FILE, ³FILE

⁶file *verb* **files; filed; filing** [*no obj*] : to walk in a line • The inmates *filed* past on their way to the mess hall. • The customers *filed* out at closing time. — compare ²FILE, ⁴FILE

file cabinet *noun*, *pl* ~ **-nets** [*count*] *US* : a piece of furniture that is used for storing documents so that they can be found easily — called also *filing cabinet*; see picture at OFFICE

fil-i-al /'fɪliəl/ *adj*, *formal* : of or relating to a son or daughter • *filial* duties : appropriate for a son or daughter • *filial* obedience/devotion

fil-i-bus-ter /'fɪləbʌstə/ *noun*, *pl* **-ters** [*count*] *chiefly US* : an effort to prevent action in a legislature (such as the U.S. Senate or House of Representatives) by making a long speech or series of speeches • They engaged in a *filibuster* that lasted for over a week.

— **filibuster** /'fɪləbʌstə/ *verb* **-ters; -tered; -ter-ing** [*no obj*] They are *filibustering* to delay the vote. [+ *obj*] They *filibustered* the bill for over a week.

fil-i-gree /'fɪləgri:/ *noun* [*noncount*] : decoration that consists of delicate and complicated designs made of fine gold or silver wire • a surface decorated with *filigree* and pearls

— **fil-i-greed** /'fɪləgri:d/ *adj* • *filigreed* ornaments/balconies/tableware

¹fil-ing /'faɪlɪŋ/ *noun*, *pl* **-ings** [*count*] : a small piece that is removed when something is smoothed or rubbed with a file — usually plural • iron *filings* — compare ²FILING

²filing *noun*, *pl* **-ings**

1 [*count*] : the act of giving an official form or document to someone in authority in order to begin a legal process • *Filings* for bankruptcy are declining.

2 [*noncount*] : the job or activity of storing documents in a file • She does all the typing and *filing* in our office. — sometimes used before another noun • a *filing* clerk

— compare ¹FILING

filing cabinet *noun*, *pl* ~ **-nets** [*count*] : FILE CABINET

¹fill /'fɪl/ *verb* **fills; filled; fill-ing**

1 a [+ *obj*] : to make (something) full • May I *fill* your glass for you? • *fill* (up) a glass with water • He told the gas station attendant to *fill* it/her up. [=to fill the tank of his car with gasoline] • Clothes *filled* the closet. • She *filled* her house with antiques. • His massive body *filled* the doorway. • He has enough books to *fill* a library. • Two hundred people *filled*

the room. • *fill* a sheet of paper with writing • Tears *filled* her eyes. [=she began to cry] • Joy *filled* her heart. [=she became very joyful] • He *filled* her head with lies [=he told her many lies] about his military service. • pastries *filled* with meat = meat-filled pastries • a vase *filled* with flowers • stadiums *filled* with cheering fans • The theater was *filled to capacity*. [=completely full] ♦ If something *fills you* or *fills your heart* with an emotion, it makes you feel that emotion very strongly. • The thought of leaving *fills me* with sadness. [=makes me very sad] • I'm *filled* with shame [=I'm very ashamed] when I think of how I treated her. • The news *filled their hearts* with hope. [=made them very hopeful] **b** [*no obj*] : to become full • Her eyes *filled* with tears. [=she began to cry] • Her heart *filled* with joy. [=she became very joyful] • The rivers have *filled* and are close to flooding. • The stadium *filled* more than an hour before the game.

2 [+ *obj*] : to spread all through (an area, the air, etc.) • Smoke *filled* the room. • Laughter *filled* the air. • The smell of fried onions *filled* the house. • Tension *filled* the air as we waited for further news.

3 [+ *obj*] : to spend or use (time) • She likes to *fill* (up) her day with small chores. • Since he retired he doesn't know how to *fill* his time. • a *fun-filled* afternoon [=an afternoon filled with fun; a very enjoyable afternoon]

4 : to make (someone) full with food and drink — usually + *up* [+ *obj*] foods that won't *fill you up* [*no obj*] We *filled up* on sandwiches before leaving for the game.

5 [+ *obj*] : to place material inside of (a hole, crack, etc.) in order to repair a surface • *fill* a crack with putty • workers *filling* potholes • *fill* a cavity in a tooth = *fill* a tooth [=put filling in a cavity/tooth] — often used figuratively • He's trying to *fill the gaps* in his record collection. [=trying to get the records he needs to make his collection complete] • These new discoveries will help to *fill a gap* in our knowledge of how the human body ages. • Some other player will have to *fill the void* left by his retirement.

6 [+ *obj*] : to do or provide what is needed for (something) • *fill* [=fulfill] all requirements • *fill* a need

7 [+ *obj*] **a** : to perform the work of (an office, position, etc.) • *fill* [=hold, occupy] the office of president • A new representative will be appointed to *fill* his vacated seat. **b** : to hire a person for a job that has become available • The company hopes to *fill* several vacancies in its marketing department. • *fill* a job opening

8 [+ *obj*] : to provide the things that are asked for in (something, such as an order) • *fill* an order • (*US*) *fill* a prescription [= (*Brit*) make up a prescription]

fill in [*phrasal verb*] **1** *fill* (something) in or *fill in* (something) **a** : to complete (a document) by providing necessary information • *fill in* an application • *fill in* an order form • Please *fill in the blanks*. [=put information in the blank spaces] — sometimes used figuratively • At the end of the movie, the narrator goes back and *fills in* (all) the blanks. [=the narrator provides missing information about the movie's plot] **b** : to provide (more information) • Just tell me the most important parts—you can *fill in* the details later. **2** *fill* (someone) in or *fill in* (someone) : to provide information to (someone) • I missed the meeting so I need someone to *fill me in* (on what happened). • She *filled us in* on the details. **3** *fill in* : to take the place of (someone who is away for a time) • He can't be here today, so he asked me to *fill in*. — often + *for* • He asked me to *fill in for* him. — see also FILL-IN

fill out [*phrasal verb*] **1** : to increase in size : to become larger and heavier • The tree looks weak now but should begin to *fill out* in a few years. • It was easier to find clothes that fit him once he began to *fill out*. **2** *fill* (something) out or *fill out* (something) *chiefly US* : to complete (something, such as a form) by providing necessary information • *fill out* [=fill in] a form • *fill out* an application

fill someone's shoes : to take someone's place or position • No one will be able to *fill her shoes* after she retires.

fill the bill see ¹BILL

²fill *noun* [*noncount*]

1 : a full amount : all that someone wants or needs ♦ If you have *eaten/drank your fill*, you have eaten/drank all that you want. • I'm going to *eat my fill*. ♦ If you have *had your fill of* something, you do not want to do or have any more of it. • We've *had our fill of* dance music for one night.

2 : material that is used to fill something • They delivered a truckload of *fill* for the trench.

fill-er /'fɪlə/ *noun*, *pl* **-ers**

1 [*noncount*] **a** : a substance that is added to a product to

increase its size or weight **b** : material that is used to fill holes and cracks in a surface **c** : extra material that is added to something (such as a newspaper page or a recording) to fill space that would otherwise be empty • Those extra songs were just *filler* to make the CD longer.

2 [*count*] : a sound, word, or phrase (such as “um” or “you know?”) that people say during a pause when they are speaking

1 **fil·let** also **US fi·let** /'fɪlət, frɪ'leɪ/ *noun, pl -lets* [*count*] : a piece or slice of boneless meat or fish • catfish *fillets* • a juicy *fillet* of beef

2 **fillet** *verb* **fil·lets; fil·leted** /'fɪlətəd, frɪ'leɪd/; **fil·let·ing** [+*obj*] : to cut (meat or fish) into fillets • He carefully *filleted* the fish with a sharp knife. • slices of *filleted* pork

fill-in /'fɪl,ɪn/ *noun, pl -ins* [*count*] : someone who takes the place of another person who is away for a short time : someone who fills in for someone else • She performed well as the emergency *fill-in*. [=replacement, substitute]

1 **fill·ing** /'fɪlɪŋ/ *adj* [more ~; most ~] of food : causing you to feel full • a very *filling* meal • *filling* foods

2 **filling** *noun, pl -ings*

1 [*count*] : material that is used to fill something • a *filling* for a tooth

2 : a food mixture that is used to fill something (such as pastry or a sandwich) [*count*] pies with fruit *fillings* [*noncount*] pies that need more *filling*

filling station *noun, pl ~ -tions* [*count*] : GAS STATION

fil·lip /'fɪləp/ *noun, pl -lips* [*count*] : an added part or feature that makes something more interesting or exciting • a structural *fillip* that will add much to the appearance of the building • lent a *fillip* of danger to the sport

fil·ly /'fɪli/ *noun, pl -lies* [*count*] : a young female horse — compare COLT, FOAL

1 **film** /'fɪlm/ *noun, pl films*

1 [*noncount*] : a special material that is used for taking photographs • Have you bought any *film* for the camera? • We haven't had the *film* developed yet. • We shot four rolls of *film* on our trip. [=we filled four rolls of film with pictures]

2 a : MOVIE [*count*] He's interested in making *films* about war. • *film* critics/reviewers/criticism • We'll start the *film* at 10:00. [*noncount*] The accident was captured *on film*. [=was recorded by a movie or video camera] **b** [*noncount*] : the process, art, or business of making movies • He studied *film* in college. • her career in *film*

3 [*count*] : a thin layer on or over the surface of something • the protective *film* over a shark's eye • A *film* of ice covered the sidewalk.

2 **film** *verb* **films; filmed; film·ing**

1 [+*obj*] : to make a movie of (something) : to photograph (an event, scene, etc.) with a movie or video camera • Television news crew members came to *film* the interview. • She *filmed* the children playing.

2 [*no obj*] : to make a movie • We'll begin *filming* [=shooting] next week.

— **filming** *noun* [*noncount*] • *Filming* will begin next week. • two weeks of *filming*

film-go·er /'fɪlm,ɡowə/ *noun, pl -ers* [*count*] : a person who often goes to movies or who is at a particular movie : MOVIEGOER

film·mak·er /'fɪlm,mekə/ *noun, pl -ers* [*count*] : a person (such as a director or producer) who makes movies • a major *filmmaker*

film noir /-'nwɑ/ *noun, pl films noir* /,fɪlmz'nwɑ/ [*count*] : a movie about crime that uses dark shadows and lighting to show the complicated moral nature of the subject; also [*noncount*] : this style of film

film·strip /'fɪlm,stri:p/ *noun, pl -strips* [*count*] : a long piece of film used for showing a series of pictures on a screen individually and not as a movie

filmy /'fɪlmi/ *adj* **film·i·er; -est** : very thin and light • *filmy* curtains • *filmy* fabric

filo *variant spelling of* PHYLLO

1 **fil·ter** /'fɪltə/ *noun, pl -ters* [*count*]

1 : a device that is used to remove something unwanted from a liquid or gas that passes through it • She smokes cigarettes with *filters*. • a water *filter*

2 : a device that prevents some kinds of light, sound, electronic noises, etc., from passing through • He placed a red *filter* on the camera lens. • digital *filters* that stop high-frequency sounds

3 *computers* : software that prevents someone from looking

at or receiving particular kinds of material through the Internet • a spam *filter* [=a program that keeps you from seeing spam or unwanted e-mail]

2 **filter** *verb* **-ters; -tered; -ter·ing**

1 [+*obj*] **a** : to pass (something, such as a gas or liquid) through a filter to remove something unwanted • They've begun *filtering* their water to remove impurities. **b** : to remove (something unwanted) by using a filter • a device that *filters* impurities from water • sunglasses that *filter* ultraviolet light — often + *out* • sunglasses that *filter out* ultraviolet light — often used figuratively • The purpose of the first interview is to *filter out* people who are not good candidates for the job.

2 *always followed by an adverb or preposition* [*no obj*] **a** : to move through or into something in small amounts or in a gradual way • Sunlight *filtered* through the leaves. • His ideas have *filtered down* to his children. **b** : to come or go slowly in small groups or amounts • The crowd *filtered* into the arena. • The crowd *filtered out* (of the arena). • Early election returns have begun to *filter in*.

filth /'fɪlθ/ *noun* [*noncount*]

1 : a large and very unpleasant amount of dirt • He emerged from the cellar covered in *filth*. : very dirty conditions • the *filth* of the slaughterhouse • living in *filth* and squalor

2 : something that is very offensive or disgusting and often is about sex • magazines full of *filth*

1 **filthy** /'fɪlθi/ *adj* **filth·i·er; -est**

1 : very dirty • *filthy* clothes • *filthy* streets

2 a : very offensive or disgusting and usually about sex • a *filthy* movie/joke • He has a *filthy* mouth. [=he uses language that is very offensive] **b** : very evil : morally wrong • *filthy* tactics • That's a *filthy* lie! **c** : very bad • He has a *filthy* temper. [=he gets angry very easily] • She's in a *filthy* mood. • (*chiefly Brit*) We've been having *filthy* weather.

— **filth·i·ness** /'fɪlθɪnəs/ *noun* [*noncount*] • the *filthiness* of the streets

2 **filthy** *adv, informal* : VERY • He's *filthy rich*. [=he's extremely rich; he has so much money that his wealth is disgusting or offensive] • Her clothes were *filthy dirty*. [=extremely dirty]

fil·tra·tion /fɪl'treɪʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*] *technical* : the act or process of removing something unwanted from a liquid, gas, etc., by using a filter • water *filtration*

fin /'fɪn/ *noun, pl fins* [*count*]

1 : a thin flat part that sticks out from the body of a fish and is used in moving or guiding the fish through water • a fish with blue scales and spiny *fins* • a shark *fin*

2 : a part on a machine (such as a car or airplane) that is shaped like a fish's fin • a car from the 1950s with *fins* on the back — see also TAIL FIN

— **finned** /'fɪnd/ *adj* • a *finned* creature [=a fish]

fi·na·gle /fə'neɪɡəl/ *verb* **-na·gles; -na·gled; -na·gling** [+*obj*] *informal*

1 : to get (something) in a clever or dishonest way • He *finagled* an invitation to the conference by claiming to be a reporter. = He *finagled* his way into the conference by claiming to be a reporter.

2 : to trick (someone) in order to get something • A con man *finagled* my neighbor out of four hundred dollars.

— **fi·na·gler** /fə'neɪɡlə/ *noun, pl -glers* [*count*]

1 **fi·nal** /'faɪnəl/ *adj*

1 *always used before a noun* **a** : happening or coming at the end • the *final* act of the play • They won their *final* four games. • in the *final* minutes/moments/seconds of the game • Our last/previous stop was Bangkok, but our *final* destination is Tokyo. • The plans are undergoing *final* review. • *final* exams [=exams at the end of a class or term] • I'd like to add one *final* note. [=make one last statement] **b** : happening as a result : happening at the end of a process • What was the *final* score? • The *final* product was not what we had expected. • the *final* results

2 — used to say that something will not to be changed or done again • This is my *final* offer. • You can't come with us, and that's *final*! • All sales are *final*. • Is that your *final* answer?

in the final analysis see ANALYSIS

the final straw see STRAW

the final word see ¹WORD

2 **final** *noun, pl -nals*

1 [*count*] : the last competition (such as a game or race) or set of competitions in a series • He was defeated in the (men's) *final*. — usually plural • He won in the quarterfinals and semifinals but was defeated in the *finals*.

2 a *finals* [*plural*] : the examinations that happen at the end

of a class, term, or course of study • He passed his *finals*. • He failed his history *finals*. **b** [count] *US* : an examination at the end of a class • He failed his history *final*.

fi-na-le /fə'næli, fə'nɑ:li/ *noun, pl -les* [count] : the last part of something (such as a musical performance, play, etc.) • She sung a very difficult song for the *finale*. • the TV show's season *finale* [=the last program of the season] — see also GRAND FINALE

fi-nal-ist /'faɪnəlɪst/ *noun, pl -ists* [count] : a person who competes in the last part of a competition • They interviewed all of the *finalists* before making a decision. • a *finalist* in the tennis tournament

fi-nal-i-ty /faɪ'næləti/ *noun* [noncount] : the quality or state of being final or finished and not able to be changed • the *finality* of death • "It won't work," he said, with an air of *finality*.

fi-nal-ize also *Brit* **fi-nal-ise** /'faɪnəlaɪz/ *verb -iz-es; -ized; -iz-ing* [+ *obj*] : to put (something, such as a plan or an agreement) in a final or finished form • They are *finalizing* their divorce this week. • We bought our tickets and *finalized* our vacation plans.

— **fi-nal-i-za-tion** also *Brit* **fi-nal-i-sa-tion** /,faɪnələ'zeɪʃən, *Brit* /faɪnə'lar'zeɪʃən/ *noun* [noncount]

fi-nal-ly /'faɪnli/ *adv*

1 : at the end of a period of time • He won't rest until the killer is *finally* found.: after a long time • After years of arguing, the two brothers *finally* made up. • I *finally* found my wallet. • They're *finally* here. • "They're here." "Finally!" • We're *finally* starting to see some results.

2 a — used to describe the last action or event in a series of actions or events • He slowly stood up, cleared his throat, and *finally* began to speak. **b** — used to introduce a final statement or series of statements • *Finally* [=in conclusion, lastly], I'd like to thank all who cooperated in this project.

3 : in a final manner : in a way that cannot be changed • The dispute has not yet been *finally* settled.

¹fi-nance /'faɪnæns, fə'næns/ *noun, pl -nanc-es*

1 [noncount] : the way in which money is used and handled • She's taking a course on personal *finance*; especially : the way in which large amounts of money are used and handled by governments and companies • an expert in *finance* who predicts global economic disaster • corporate *finance* — see also HIGH FINANCE

2 finances [plural] **a** : money available to a government, business, or person • The library closed due to a lack of *finances*. **b** : matters relating to money and how it is spent or saved • His *finances* were in bad shape. [=he did not have enough money] • Her health problems have put a serious strain on her *finances*. [=she lacks money because of an unusual number of health expenses]

²fi-nance /fə'næns, 'faɪnæns/ *verb -nanc-es; -nanced; -nanc-ing* [+ *obj*]

1 : to provide money for (something or someone) • His parents *financed* his college education. • The study was *financed* by a government grant. • They *financed* him to study abroad.

2 : to buy (something) by borrowing money that will be paid back over a period of time • *finance* a new car

— **financing** *noun* [noncount] • Public *financing* paid for the new stadium. • The car dealer offers *financing*. [=you can get a loan through the car dealer to pay for a car that you buy there]

finance company *noun, pl ~ -nies* [count] : a company that makes small loans to people — called also (*Brit*) *finance house*

fi-nan-cial /fə'nænʃəl/ *adj* : relating to money • The company is headed for *financial* disaster. • a family struggling with *financial* problems • I would like some *financial* advice before I buy this house. • You can get a loan at a *financial institution*. [=a company that deals with money; a bank]

— **fi-nan-cial-ly** *adv* • He has made some smart investments, so he's doing very well *financially*. • a *financially* stable organization

financial aid *noun* [noncount] *US* : money that is given or lent to students in order to help pay for their education • She needed *financial aid*.

financial year *noun, pl ~ years* [count] *Brit* : FISCAL YEAR

fin-an-cier /,fɪnən'siə, *Brit* fə'nænsiə/ *noun, pl -ciers* [count] : a person who controls the use and lending of large amounts of money • A group of powerful *financiers* bought out the company.

finch /'fɪntʃ/ *noun, pl finch-es* [count] : a small bird with a short, thick beak

¹find /'faɪnd/ *verb finds; found* /'faʊnd/; **find-ing**

1 [+ *obj*] **a** : to discover (something or someone) without planning or trying to : to discover (something or someone) by chance • He *found* a dollar on the ground. • The well diggers *found* a number of Native American artifacts. • She *finds* [=meets] interesting people wherever she goes. **b** ♦ Something or someone that *is found* in a specified place exists there or lives there. • Many artifacts can *be found* in this area. [=there are many artifacts in this area] • Polar bears *are found* in the Northern Hemisphere.

2 [+ *obj*] : to get or discover (something or someone that you are looking for) • After an hour of searching, I *finally found* my glasses. • *find* a missing person • We need to *find* a suitable person for the job. • I *found* a job for him. = I *found* him a job. • My glasses *are nowhere to be found*. = I can't *find* my glasses.

3 [+ *obj*] **a** : to discover or learn (something) by studying about it • She *found* the answer at last. • They claim to have *found* a more efficient way to run the business. • researchers trying to *find* a cure for cancer **b** : to get (something needed or wanted) by effort • You must *find* time to do it. • I *found* a way to pay for college without taking out any loans. • She *found* the courage to address the crowd. • I hope you can *find it in your heart* to forgive me. = I hope you can *find it in yourself* to forgive me. [=I hope you can forgive me]

4 [+ *obj*] **a** : to regard (someone or something you have met, seen, experienced, etc.) in a specified way • I *found* him (to be) a very sensible man. = I *found* him very sensible. • Students often *find* this book (to be) useful. • I *find* it hard to concentrate [=it is hard for me to concentrate] with that music playing. • The travel arrangements were *found wanting*. [=the travel arrangements were criticized] **b** : to be affected by (something) in a specified way • He *finds* laughing/laughter painful. = He *finds* it painful to laugh. **c** : to feel (a pleasing emotion) • He *finds* pleasure in her company. • They didn't win, but the team *found* some satisfaction in having played so well.

5 [+ *obj*] **a** : to discover (someone) in a specified state • He *found* them waiting for him. • I *found* her relaxing by the pool. • He was *found* dead the next morning. • The crisis *found* them unprepared. [=they were unprepared when the crisis occurred] **b** : to become aware that you are doing something or that you are in a particular place or situation • I often *find* myself thinking about her. • When he awoke, he *found* himself in an unfamiliar room. [=he saw that he was in an unfamiliar room] • I *found* myself agreeing with him. [=I found that I agreed with him]

6 [+ *obj*] : to begin to have (something) • The new product *found* few buyers. [=few people bought it] • It took a while before his unusual brand of comedy *found* an audience. • These ideas have *found approval/favor* [=been accepted; become well-liked] among many young people. • His doctrines *found acceptance* [=were accepted] among scholars.

7 law **a** [+ *obj*] : to make a decision about the guilt or innocence of (someone) • The jury *found* her guilty. • She was *found* innocent. **b** : to decide the result of a court case [+ *obj*] The jury *found* a verdict of guilty. [no *obj*] The jury *found* for the defendant. [=the jury's decision was in favor of the defendant] • The jury *found* against her.

find common cause see ¹CAUSE

find fault : to criticize someone or something • No matter what she did, her husband was always *finding fault*. — usually + *with* • Her husband *found fault with* everything she did. — see also FAULTFINDER

find its mark/target : to hit a target that was aimed for • The bullet *found its mark*. — often used figuratively • Her angry reaction showed that his criticisms had *found their mark*.

find out [phrasal verb] **1 find out (something)** : to learn (something) by making an effort • I'd like to *find out* more about the school's psychology program. • We need to *find out* where the meeting is being held. • I don't know when the game starts, but I'll *find out*. **2 find out about (something)** : to become aware of (something) • Her mother *found out about* her smoking habit. **3 find (someone) out** : to learn the unpleasant truth about (someone) • He pretended to be a respectable citizen, but we *found him out* at last. • Luckily, he was *found out* before he could do any harm.

find your bearings see BEARING

find yourself : to learn what you truly value and want in life

• He left school and traveled to Europe, saying that he wanted to *find himself*.

find your voice : to begin speaking or expressing your thoughts : to be able to speak or to express yourself as a writer • I couldn't speak for a moment, but then I *found my voice*. • a young novelist who has *found her voice*

find your way **1** : to look for and find where you need to go in order to get somewhere • I *found my way* home without any problems. • She got lost trying to *find her way* back to the hotel. — often used figuratively • He's still *finding his way* as an actor. [=he's still learning what he needs to do to succeed as an actor] **2** : to go or arrive somewhere by chance or after a time of wandering • The settlers eventually *found their way* to California.

find *noun, pl finds* [count] : something or someone that has been found; *especially* : a valuable person or thing that has been found or discovered • That antique she bought at the flea market was a real *find*. • That new secretary of yours is a real *find*!

find-er /'faɪndə/ *noun, pl -ers* [count] : a person who finds something that was lost

finders keepers (losers weepers) — used especially in children's speech to say that you can keep what you have found and do not need to give it back to the person who has lost it

find-ing /'faɪndɪŋ/ *noun, pl -ings* [count]

1 : a legal decision : VERDICT • The Supreme Court overturned the lower court's *finding*.

2 : the results of an investigation — usually plural • He published his *findings* in a medical journal.

fine /'faɪn/ *adj fin-er; -est*

1 *a not used before a noun* : good, acceptable, or satisfactory : OK • That's *fine* with me. • "Is there anything wrong?" "No, everything's *fine*." • The house looks *fine* to me. • "Would you like more coffee?" "No, I'm *fine*, thanks." [=I am happy with the amount of coffee I have now] • "Would you like more coffee?" "No, this is *fine*, thanks." [=no, this is as much as I want] • That's just *fine and dandy* with me. [=that is fine with me; I approve of that] ♦ *Fine* is often used as a response to show acceptance or approval. • "I have to leave early, all right?" "*Fine*." **b** — used in an ironic way to refer to things that are not good or acceptable • This is a *fine* mess we're in. • "Those kids are no good." "You're a *fine one to talk*, considering all the trouble you caused when you were young." [=you should not say bad things about others because those same things could be said about you]

2 *a always used before a noun* : very good • I think that's a *fine* idea. • You did a *fine* job. • The house is in *fine* shape. • This is a *fine* example of what can go wrong when one person is given too much power. • They make a *fine* pair. [=they are well suited to each other] • She has a *fine* grasp of the problem. [=she understands the problem very well] • He was in *fine* form. [=he performed very well] **b always used before a noun** : deserving praise, admiration, or respect • He's a *fine* young man. • a *fine* musician • a *fine* mind

3 *not used before a noun* : well or healthy : not sick or injured • I feel *fine*. • "Did you hurt yourself?" "No, I'm *fine*."

4 *of weather* : sunny and pleasant • a *fine* spring day • The weather has been *fine* lately.

5 **a** : very thin • *fine* thread/wire/yarn • Her head was covered with *fine*, silky hair. **b** : very sharp or narrow • a knife with a *fine* edge • a pen/brush with a *fine* tip : having a sharp point • a *fine* pen/brush **c** : made up of very small pieces, drops, etc. • *fine* sand/dust/powder • *fine* gravel • a *fine* mist/spray **d** : very small • The print was so *fine* that I could barely read it. • very *fine* details on the sculpture — see also FINE PRINT **e** : having very small holes • a *fine* mesh **f** : small and delicate • She has *fine* features. [=her eyes, nose, and mouth are small and delicate]

6 **a** : small and done with a lot of care and accuracy • *fine* measurements • *fine* movements **b** : small and difficult to see or understand : SUBTLE • a *fine* distinction • He's still learning the *finer* points of the job. • Some very *fine* legal points were involved. • There's a *fine line* [=a very small difference] between being helpful and being intrusive.

7 *a always used before a noun* : expensive and of high quality • *fine* dining • *fine* china **b** : formal and graceful • *fine* handwriting • His manners are very *fine*. [=refined] *a fine figure of a man/woman* see ¹FIGURE *chance would be a fine thing* see ¹CHANCE *finest hour* see HOUR

not to put too fine a point on it — used in an ironic way to introduce a very strong and usually critical statement • *Not*

to put too fine a point on it, (but) his suggestions have been worthless.

fine-ly /'faɪnli/ *adv* • The onions should be *finely* chopped. [=should be chopped in small pieces] • a *finely* judged response that was just right • a *finely* balanced election that could go either way — **fine-ness** /'faɪnnəs/ *noun* [non-count] • the *fineness* of the thread • *fineness* of detail

fine *adv, somewhat informal*

1 : not badly or poorly : well enough • She did *fine* on the test. • My mother is doing *fine*, thank you. • Everything was going *fine*. • That suits me *fine*. • This'll do *fine* for now.

2 : in an elegant and graceful way • She talks and walks so *fine*, just like a great lady.

3 *used after a verb* : in small pieces • The onions should be chopped *fine*. [=finely]

fine *noun, pl fines* [count] : an amount of money that you pay as a punishment for breaking a law or rule • He had to pay a heavy *fine* for speeding. • a *fine* of \$500 • The judge imposed a *fine* on him.

fine *verb fines; fined; fin-ing* [+ *obj*] : to require (someone) to pay a fine as a punishment • He was *fined* for speeding. • The judge *fined* him \$35.

fine art *noun, pl ~ arts*

1 : a type of art (such as painting, sculpture, or music) that is done to create beautiful things [noncount] a collector of *fine art* [plural] She studies painting in the department of *fine arts*. • We saw the sculpture at the Museum of *Fine Arts*.

2 [singular] : an activity that requires skill and care • the *fine art* of gourmet cooking — often used in a humorous or ironic way • He has mastered the *fine art* of flattery.

fine print *noun* [noncount] : the part of an agreement or document that contains important details and that is sometimes written in small letters • Read the *fine print* before you sign the contract. — see also ¹FINE 5d

fin-ery /'faɪnəri/ *noun* [noncount] *somewhat formal* : clothes, jewels, etc., that are expensive and beautiful • wedding *finery* • She was proud to show off her new evening *finery*.

fin-esse /fə'nes/ *noun* [noncount] : skill and cleverness that is shown in the way someone deals with a situation, problem, etc. • She handled the interview questions with *finesse*.

finesse *verb -ness-es; -nessed; -ness-ing* [+ *obj*] : to handle, deal with, or do (something) in an indirect and skillful or clever way • He managed to *finesse* a deal through bargaining. • She is just trying to *finesse* the issue.

fin-est /'faɪnəst/ *noun* [plural] *US, informal* : the police officers of a specified city or area • He's a member of New York's *finest*. [=he's a police officer in New York]

fine-tooth comb /'faɪn,tu:θ-/ *noun, pl ~ combs* [count] : a comb with many small teeth

go over/through (something) with a fine-tooth comb : to examine something very closely • The police are *going over the evidence with a fine-tooth comb*.

fine-tune /'faɪn'tu:n/ *verb -tunes; -tuned; -tun-ing* [+ *obj*] : to make small changes to (something) in order to improve the way it works or to make it exactly right • *fine-tune* a TV set • *fine-tune* the temperature of the room • They're *fine-tuning* interest rates to achieve economic growth without inflation.

fin-ger /'fɪŋɡə/ *noun, pl -gers*

1 [count] : one of the five long parts of the hand that are used for holding things; *especially* : one of the four that are not the thumb • Don't stick your *fingers* in the cookie batter! • He slipped the ring onto her *finger*. • The baby held onto my thumb with her tiny *fingers*. • She ran her *fingers* through his hair. • He drummed his *fingers* on the table impatiently. — see also FOREFINGER, INDEX FINGER, LITTLE FINGER, MIDDLE FINGER, RING FINGER

2 [count] **a** : something that is long and thin and looks like a finger • a *finger* of land extending into the sea • a *finger* of flame **b** : the part of a glove into which a finger is placed

3 *the finger* *US, informal* : an obscene gesture made by pointing the middle finger up, keeping the other fingers down, and turning the palm towards you • She was so mad, she *gave him the finger*. • Some angry driver *flipped me the finger* on the highway this morning.

all fingers and thumbs *informal* : very clumsy • Sorry I dropped the vase; I'm *all fingers and thumbs* today.

cross your fingers see ²CROSS

finger on the pulse ♦ If you *have/keep your finger on the pulse* of something, you know about the latest things that are happening. • He claims that he *has/keeps his finger on the pulse* of the computer industry. [=that he is very aware

what is happening in the computer industry]

have a finger in a/the pie : to have an interest or share in something • a sharp talent agent who *has a finger in* nearly every *pie* in show business

itchy finger see ITCHY

keep your fingers crossed see ²CROSS

lay a finger on informal : to touch or hit (someone) — usually used in negative statements • I don't know what he's complaining about. I never *laid a finger on* him.

lift a finger : to make an effort to do something — usually used in negative statements • I have so many chores to do, and my sister won't *lift a finger* to help me. • He never *lifted a finger* to try to improve his failing grades.

point an accusing finger at or point a/the finger at : to accuse or blame (someone) • He was quick to *point an accusing finger at* his coworkers. • Let's stop *pointing fingers at* each other and just solve the problem!

put/stick two fingers up at someone Brit, informal : to make an obscene gesture by holding up the index finger and the middle finger of one hand in the shape of a V while keeping the palm turned inward

put your finger on : to find out the exact nature of (something) : IDENTIFY • I feel that something is wrong but I can't quite *put my finger on* the problem.

the finger of blame/suspicion — used to say that someone is being blamed or suspected • He was shocked to realize that the *finger of suspicion* was now pointed at him. [=that he was now suspected]

work your fingers to the bone : to work very hard • She had to *work her fingers to the bone* to make enough money to raise her kids.

wrap (someone) around your (little) finger see ¹WRAP

— **fin-gered** /'fɪŋgəd/ *adj* — used in combination • three-fingered — **fin-ger-like** /'fɪŋgəˌlaɪk/ *adj*

²**finger** *verb* -gers; -gered; -ger-ing [+ *obj*]

1 : to touch (something) with your fingers • She *fingered* the silk. • She *fingered* her necklace.

2 *chiefly US, informal* : to identify (someone) as the person who has committed a crime • He was *fingered* as a suspect.

finger food *noun, pl ~ foods* [*count, noncount*] *US* : a piece of food that is meant to be picked up with the fingers and eaten

fin-ger-ing /'fɪŋgərɪŋ/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the way in which the fingers are used and positioned in order to play a musical instrument

fin-ger-nail /'fɪŋgəˌneɪl/ *noun, pl -nails* [*count*] : the hard covering at the end of your fingers • I trimmed and filed my *finger-nails*. • He had dirt under his *finger-nails*. • Quit biting/chewing your *finger-nails*. — see picture at HAND

finger paint *verb ~ paints; ~ painted; ~ painting* [*no obj*] *chiefly US* : to paint a picture using only your hands or fingers instead of a brush • The kids will *finger paint* today.

— **finger paint** *noun, pl ~ paints* [*count*] • I have to buy some *finger paints* for my classroom. — **finger painting** *noun* [*noncount*] • Today's activity is *finger painting*.

finger-pointing *noun* [*noncount*] : the act of blaming someone for a problem instead of trying to fix or solve it • This administration refuses to engage in *finger-pointing*.

¹**fin-ger-print** /'fɪŋgəˌprɪnt/ *noun, pl -prints* [*count*]

1 **a** : the mark that is made by pressing the tip of a finger on a surface • Detectives found his *fingerprints* all over the gun. • Everyone has a unique *fingerprint*. — sometimes used figuratively • This project has his *fingerprints* all over it. [=it is obvious that he was very involved in this project] **b** : a mark of this kind made in ink for the purpose of identifying a person — usually plural • The police took her *fingerprints* for their files. — called also *print*

2 : something (such as genetic material) that can be used to identify a person • a DNA *fingerprint*

²**fingerprint** *verb* -prints; -print-ed; -print-ing [+ *obj*] : to take the fingerprints of (someone, such as a criminal) for the purpose of identification • He was arrested, taken to the police station, and *fingerprinted*.

— **fingerprinting** *noun* [*noncount*] • He was arrested and taken to the police station for *fingerprinting*.

fin-ger-tip /'fɪŋgəˌtɪp/ *noun, pl -tips* [*count*] : the very end of a finger — usually plural • He tapped on the tabletop with his *finger-tips*.

at your fingertips : easily available : easy to find or use • The librarian has all the information *at his fingertips*.

to your fingertips *chiefly Brit* : in every way • He is a gentleman *to his fingertips*.

fin-icky /'fɪnɪki/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*]

1 : very hard to please • a *finicky* eater • My teacher is *finicky* about grammar.

2 : requiring a lot of care or attention • a complicated and *finicky* recipe

¹**fin-ish** /'fɪnɪʃ/ *verb* -ish-es; -ished; -ish-ing

1 **a** : to reach the end of (something) : to stop doing (something) because it is completed [+ *obj*] He *finished* (giving) his speech and sat down. • He hasn't *finished* his work yet. = He hasn't *finished* working yet. • You can't watch TV until you *finish* your homework. [*no obj*] He started his homework two hours ago and he still hasn't *finished*. • I'll wait here until you *finish*. = I'll wait here until you have *finished*. — compare FINISHED 1a **b** : to be done with building or creating (something) [+ *obj*] They hope to *finish* their new home by winter. [*no obj*] They're building a new home and they hope to *finish* by winter. — compare FINISHED 1b **c** : to cause something to end or stop : to reach the end of something [+ *obj*] The chairman *finished* the meeting at noon. [*no obj*] The meeting *finished* [=ended] at noon. • The meeting *finished* on a positive note.

2 [+ *obj*] **a** : to cause the ruin or failure of (someone or something) • These allegations could *finish* his career as a politician. = These allegations could *finish* him as a politician. — compare FINISHED 2b **b** : to kill (someone or something already wounded) — usually + *off* • The crowd in the arena shouted for the gladiator to *finish off* his opponent. **c** : to defeat or exhaust (someone) completely — usually + *off* • Climbing so many stairs just about *finished* me *off*.

3 [+ *obj*] : to use, eat, or drink all that is left of (something) • They *finished* (off/up) the pie before I got a chance to have a slice. • I've had enough wine. You can *finish* (off) the rest of the bottle.

4 : to end a race, competition, etc., in a specified position or manner [*no obj*] The horse I bet on *finished* third. • The horse *finished* in third place. • Our team started poorly but *finished* well. [+ *obj*] The horse I bet on *finished* the race in third place. • Our team *finished* the season in first place.

5 [+ *obj*] : to put a final coat or surface on (something) • He *finished* the table with varnish.

finishing touch : one of the last things done to make something complete — usually plural • They're *putting the finishing touches* on their new home. • He's *putting the finishing touches* on his latest novel.

finish with [*phrasal verb*] 1 **finish with (something)** : to have no further need for (something) : to stop using (something) • Could I see the newspaper when you *finish with* it? 2 **finish with (someone)** : to stop being involved with (someone) : to end a romantic relationship with (someone) • She and her boyfriend had another fight, and now she says she's going to *finish with* him once and for all. — compare FINISHED 2a 3 **finish with (someone or something)** : to stop dealing with, working on, or punishing (someone or something) • When I *finish with* him he'll be sorry! • I haven't *finished with* you yet! — see also FINISHED

²**finish** *noun, pl -ish-es*

1 [*singular*] : the last part of something : END, CONCLUSION • a suspense film with a perfect surprise *finish* • The race was close *from start to finish*. [=from the beginning to the end] • The race had a *close/tight finish*. [=the winner of the race won by a very small amount] • It was a *fight to the finish*. [=the fight went on until one side was completely defeated] — see also PHOTO FINISH

2 [*count*] : the final coating on a surface or the appearance produced by such a coating • The table had a shiny *finish*. • I need to put one more coat of *finish* on the chair.

— **fin-ish-er** *noun, pl -ers* [*count*]

finished *adj*

1 **a** *not used before a noun* : having reached the end of an activity, job, etc. • He started his homework two hours ago and he still isn't *finished*. • I'll wait here until you're *finished*. — compare ¹FINISH 1a **b** : not requiring more work : entirely done or completed • The job is finally *finished*. • We were pleased with the *finished* product. • The house has a *finished basement/attic*. [=a basement/attic that has floors, ceilings, and walls like the rooms in the main part of the house] — compare ¹FINISH 1b

2 *not used before a noun* **a** : having reached the end of a romantic relationship • We're *finished*! I never want to see you again! • She says she's *finished* with that guy. **b** : no longer able to continue : completely ruined or defeated • This scan-

dal means that his career is *finished*. — compare ¹FINISH 2a
finishing line *noun, pl ~ lines* [count] *Brit* : FINISH LINE
finishing school *noun, pl ~ schools* [count] : a private school where girls from wealthy families are taught proper behavior and manners

finish line *noun, pl ~ lines* [count] *US* : a line that marks the end of a race — called also (*Brit*) *finishing line*

fi·nite /'faɪnaɪt/ *adj*

1 : having limits • a *finite* number of possibilities : having a limited nature • the earth's *finite* supply of natural resources • the *finite* human life span

2 *grammar* : of or relating to a verb form that shows action that takes place at a particular time (such as the past) • a *finite* verb such as "is" or "are" — opposite NONFINITE

— **fi·nite·ly** *adv*

¹**fink** /'fɪŋk/ *noun, pl finks* [count] *chiefly US, informal*

1 : a person who is strongly disliked • She says her boss is a rotten *fink*.

2 : a person who gives information to the police or to some other authority about the bad behavior or criminal activity of someone else

²**fink** *verb finks; finked; fink-ing*

fink on [*phrasal verb*] **fink on** (someone) *US, informal* : to tell someone about the bad behavior or criminal activity of (another person) • The other gang members will kill him if they find out that he *finked on* them (to the police).

Finn /'fɪn/ *noun, pl Finns* [count] : a person born, raised, or living in Finland

¹**Finn-ish** /'fɪnɪʃ/ *adj* : of or relating to Finland, its people, or the Finnish language • *Finnish* lakes/customs/grammar

²**Finnish** *noun* [noncount] : the chief language of the people of Finland

fiord *variant spelling of FJORD*

fir /'fɪə/ *noun, pl firs*

1 [count] : a tall evergreen tree

2 [noncount] : the wood of a fir tree

¹**fire** /'faɪə/ *noun, pl fires*

1 [noncount] : the light and heat and especially the flame produced by burning • Stay away from the *fire*.

2 : an occurrence in which something burns : the destruction of something (such as a building or a forest) by fire [count] The shack was destroyed by a *fire*. • Two people died in that terrible *fire*. • How did the *fire* start? • Police think he *set a fire* [=deliberately started a fire] in the bedroom. • Firefighters *put the fire out*. = Firefighters *put out the fire*. [=firefighters stopped the fire from burning] [noncount] The shack *caught (on) fire* [=began to burn] when it was struck by lightning. • Someone *set fire to* the shack. [=deliberately caused the shack to burn]

3 [count] : a controlled occurrence of fire created by burning something (such as wood or gas) in a special area (such as in a fireplace or stove) • We warmed our hands over the *fire*. • She built a *fire* in the fireplace. • The *fire* went out and he had to light it again. — see also CAMPFIRE

4 [noncount] : the shooting of weapons • We heard heavy rifle *fire* in the distance. • He shot at the police officer and the police officer *returned his fire*. [=the police officer shot back at him] • He and the police officer *exchanged fire*. [=shot at each other] • He was caught in the *line of fire* and killed. • The troops *opened fire on* [=began shooting at] the enemy. • *Hold your fire!* [=don't shoot] • *Cease fire!* [=stop shooting] • Several soldiers were killed by *friendly fire*. [=they were accidentally killed by weapons fired from their own side]

5 [noncount] : very heavy or harsh criticism • The company has drawn/taken (heavy) *fire* for its use of child labor overseas.

6 [noncount] : strong emotion, anger, enthusiasm, etc. • I admire her *fire* for teaching and helping children. • young lovers with their hearts full of *fire* [=passion]

7 [count] *Brit* : a small device that uses gas or electricity to heat a room • Turn on/off the *fire*.

baptism of/by fire see BAPTISM

fan a fire, fan the fire see ²FAN

fight fire with fire see ¹FIGHT

from/out of the frying pan (and) into the fire see FRYING PAN

hang fire see ¹HANG

irons in the fire see ¹IRON

light a fire under see ³LIGHT

like a house on fire see ¹HOUSE

on fire 1 : in the process of burning • The house was *on fire*. 2 : feeling very strong enthusiasm, love, etc. • He was

on fire with enthusiasm. • young lovers with their hearts *on fire* 3 : very successful • The team has been *on fire*, winning 10 of its last 11 games. — see also *set the world on fire* at ¹WORLD

play with fire see ¹PLAY

under fire 1 : being shot at by the enemy • The civilians panicked when they realized they were *under fire*. • As a soldier he showed extraordinary skill and courage *under fire*. 2 : exposed to criticism : being criticized • He is *under fire* from his political opponents. • The company has *come under fire* [=has been criticized] for using child labor overseas.

where there's smoke, there's fire or there's no smoke without fire see ¹SMOKE

²**fire** *verb fires; fired; fir-ing*

1 a : to shoot a weapon [+ *obj*] *fire* a bullet • She *fired* the arrow at the target. • He *fired* the gun. • He *fired* several shots at the police. [*no obj*] He *fired* at the police. • The gun failed to *fire*. • The soldiers *fired on/at* the enemy. • The officers were told to *fire at will*. [=to shoot when they felt that they should] — often used figuratively • Reporters *fired* questions at her. [=they asked her many questions in a quick and forceful way] b [+ *obj*] : to throw (something) with speed and force • The shortstop *fired* the ball to first base. • The angry mob *fired* rocks at him. • The boxer *fired* a left jab at his opponent's chin.

2 [+ *obj*] : to give life or energy to (something or someone) • The story *fired* his imagination.

3 [+ *obj*] : to dismiss (someone) from a job • She had to *fire* several workers. — usually used as (*be/get*) *fired* • He *got/was fired* (from his job) after missing work.

4 [*no obj*] : to begin working • The engine/cylinders failed to *fire*. — sometimes used figuratively • The team got off to a slow start, but now it's *firing on all cylinders*. [=it's now playing very well]

5 [+ *obj*] *technical* : to heat (a clay pot, dish, etc.) in an oven in order to make it very hard • She will *fire* the pots later today.

fire away *informal* — used in speech to tell someone to begin asking you questions • "We have some questions we'd like to ask you." "OK. *Fire away*."

fire back [*phrasal verb*] : to answer someone quickly and usually angrily • After his statement, his opponent *fired back*. — often + *at* • He *fired back at* his critics.

fire off [*phrasal verb*] **fire (something) off or fire off (something)** : to write and send (something, such as a letter or memo) in a quick and often angry way • He *fired off* a letter of complaint. • She *fired* an e-mail *off* to her lawyer.

fire up [*phrasal verb*] 1 **fire (something) up or fire up (something)** a : to start (something) by lighting a fire • We *fired up* the grill for the barbecue. b : to cause (something) to start working • I *fired up* my computer and got down to work. • Before we start working let's *fire up* the coffee-maker. 2 **fire (someone) up or fire up (someone)** : to fill (someone) with energy or enthusiasm • The coach *fired up* the players with a pep talk. — usually used as (*be/get*) *fired up* • We were *fired up* for the concert.

— **firing** *noun, pl firings* [count, noncount] • the hiring and firing of employees • The pot must cool before its second *firing*.

fire alarm *noun, pl ~ alarms* [count] : a device that makes a loud sound to warn people when there is a fire • Someone set off the *fire alarm*.

fire ant *noun, pl ~ ants* [count] : a type of ant that gives a very painful bite

fire-arm /'faɪə,ɑ:m/ *noun, pl -arms* [count] : a small gun • revolvers, rifles, and other *firearms*

fire-ball /'faɪə,bɔ:l/ *noun, pl -balls* [count] : a huge mass of fire • The house erupted into a *fireball*. • a nuclear *fireball*

fire-bomb /'faɪə,bɔ:m/ *noun, pl -bombs* [count] : a bomb that causes a fire when it explodes

— **firebomb** *verb -bombs; -bombed; -bomb-ing* [+ *obj*] • Rioters *firebombed* the courthouse.

fire-brand /'faɪə,bænd/ *noun, pl -brands* [count] : a person who tries to get people to become angry and to do things for a political or social cause • a political *firebrand*

fire-break /'faɪə,breɪk/ *noun, pl -breaks* [count] : an area of land that has had plants and trees removed to stop the spread of a fire

fire-breath-ing /'faɪə,bri:ðɪŋ/ *adj, always used before a noun*

1 : able to produce a stream of fire from the mouth • a story about a *fire-breathing dragon*

2 : very angry and emotional in speech, manner, or behavior • a *fire-breathing politician* • a *fire-breathing orator*

fire brigade *noun, pl ~ -gades [count]*

1 US : a group of people who work to put out a fire

2 Brit : FIRE DEPARTMENT

fire-bug /'fajə,bʌg/ *noun, pl -bugs [count]* US, informal : a person who starts destructive fires

fire-crack-er /'fajə,kɹækə/ *noun, pl -ers [count]* : a small paper cylinder that is filled with an explosive and that produces a loud noise when it explodes • boys setting off *fire-crackers*

-fired /'fajəd/ *combining form* : using a particular kind of fuel • a *gas-fired furnace* • a *coal-fired power plant*

fire department *noun, pl ~ -ments [count]* US : an organization for preventing and putting out fires — called also (Brit) *fire brigade*

fire drill *noun, pl ~ drills [count]* : an activity in which people practice leaving a place quickly so that they will know what to do if there is a fire

fire-eat-er /'fajə,i:tə/ *noun, pl -ers [count]* : a performer who pretends to eat fire

fire engine *noun, pl ~ -gines [count]* : a truck that has equipment for putting out fires — called also (US) *fire truck*



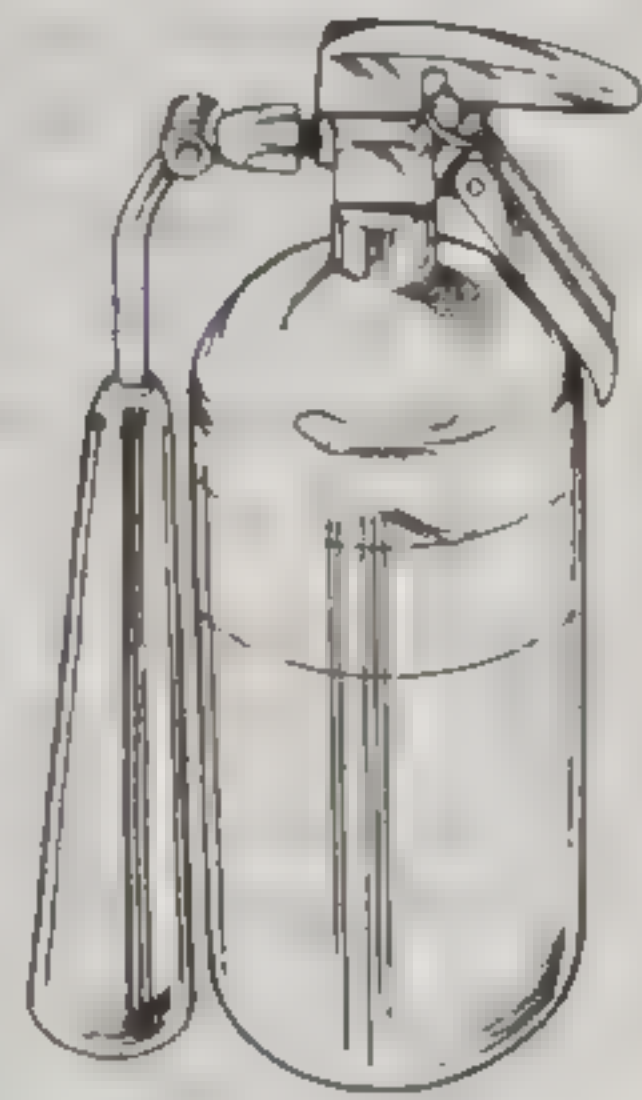
fire engine

fire escape *noun, pl ~ -capes [count]* : a stairway or ladder that can be used to escape from a burning building

fire extinguisher *noun, pl ~ -ers [count]* : a metal container filled with chemicals that is used to put out a fire

fire-fight /'fajə,fait/ *noun, pl -fights [count]* : a battle in which people shoot guns • a *firefight* between police and bank robbers; especially : a usually short and fast gunfight between opposing military units

fire-fight-er /'fajə,faitə/ *noun, pl -ers [count]* : a member of a group that works to put out fires



fire extinguisher

— **fire-fight-ing** *noun [noncount]* • *firefighting equipment*

fire-fly /'fajə,flai/ *noun, pl -flies [count]* : a small flying insect that produces a soft light — called also (US) *lightning bug*

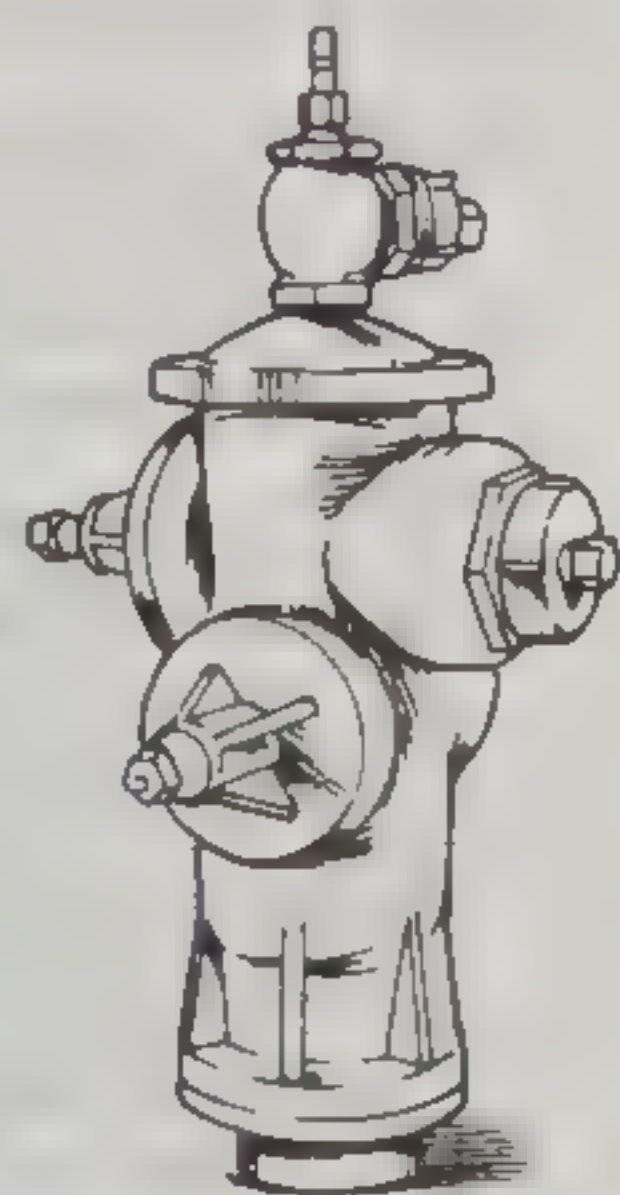
fire-house /'fajə,haus/ *noun, pl -houses [count]* US : FIRE STATION

fire hydrant *noun, pl ~ -drants [count]* : a pipe usually in the street that provides water especially for putting out fires — called also *hydrant*, (US) *fireplug*

fire-light /'fajə,lait/ *noun [noncount]* : the light produced by a fire in a fireplace, stove, etc. • The *firelight* gave the room a warm glow. • At night, he read by *firelight*.

fire-man /'fajə,mən/ *noun, pl -men /-mən/ [count]* : a man who is a member of group that works to put out fires

fire-place /'fajə,plɛs/ *noun, pl -plac-es [count]* : a specially built place in a room where a fire can be built • a *stone/brick fire-place* — see picture at LIVING ROOM



fire hydrant

fire-plug /'fajə,plʌg/ *noun, pl -plugs [count]* US : FIRE HYDRANT

fire-pow-er /'fajə,pawə/ *noun [noncount]*

1 : the amount or strength of military weapons that can be used against an enemy • The army didn't have the *firepower* to defeat the invaders. • They had enough *firepower*.

2 : effective power or force • intellectual *firepower*

¹fire-proof /'fajə,pru:f/ *adj* : not easily burned : not able to catch fire • firefighters in *fireproof suits*

²fireproof *verb -proofs; -proofed; -proof-ing [+ obj]* : to make (something) safe from fire • The building was not *fireproofed*.

fire sale *noun, pl ~ sales [count]*

1 : a sale of products that have been damaged by fire

2 : a sale at very low prices • The company is having a *fire sale* of its old office equipment.

fire screen *noun, pl ~ screens [count]* US : a metal screen that is placed in front of a fireplace

¹fire-side /'fajə,said/ *noun, pl -sides [count]* : a place next to a fire : an area close to a fireplace, campfire, etc. • We sat chatting at the *fireside*.

²fireside *adj, always used before a noun* : having an informal or friendly quality • a *fireside chat*

fire station *noun, pl ~ -tions [count]* : a building in which the members of a fire department and the equipment used to put out fires are located — called also (US) *firehouse*

fire-storm /'fajə,stoəm/ *noun, pl -storms [count]*

1 : a very large fire that destroys everything in its path and produces powerful winds • The bombing left the city engulfed in a *firestorm*.

2 : a large amount of anger and criticism • His proposal set off a political *firestorm*. • a *firestorm* of public protest

fire-trap /'fajə,træp/ *noun, pl -traps [count]* : a building that is difficult to get out of and is likely to have a deadly fire • The factory was a *firetrap* and dozens of workers died before rescuers could reach them.

fire truck *noun, pl ~ trucks [count]* US : FIRE ENGINE

fire wall *noun, pl ~ walls [count]*

1 : a very thick wall that keeps fire from spreading

2 usually *firewall* : a computer program or piece of equipment that keeps people from using or connecting to a computer or a computer network without permission

fire-wood /'fajə,wʊd/ *noun [noncount]* : wood used to make a fire : wood used as fuel • They chopped enough *firewood* to last the winter.

fire-work /'fajə,wɜ:k/ *noun, pl -works*

1 a [count] : a small device that explodes to make a display of light and noise — usually plural • setting off some *fire-works* b *fireworks* [plural] : a display where fireworks are exploded • Are you going to stay for the *fireworks*? • a *fireworks display*

2 *fireworks* [plural] : a display of anger • We expect a few *fireworks* during the presidential debate.

firing line *noun, pl ~ lines*

1 [count] : a line of soldiers who are shooting at an enemy • a brave soldier who was never far behind the *firing line*

2 [singular] : a place or position in which someone is not protected from attack or criticism — used especially in the phrase (US) *on the firing line* or Brit *in the firing line* • School administrators are not *on the firing line* every day like the teachers are.

firing squad *noun, pl ~ squads [count, noncount]* : a group of soldiers whose job is to shoot a prisoner who has been sentenced to death • The traitor was executed by (a) *firing squad*.

¹firm /'fɜ:m/ *adj firm-er; -est*

1 : fairly hard or solid : not soft • *firm flesh* • *firm muscles* • a *firm mattress* • a *firm stomach* • a *firm cheese*

2 : set, placed, or attached in a way that is not easily moved • a *firm base/foundation* — often used figuratively • He believes that his argument is *on firm ground/footing*. [=that he has good support, evidence, etc., for his argument]

3 : not weak or uncertain • a *firm* [=strong] handshake/grip • She has a *firm* grasp of the basic principles. • They insist on maintaining *firm* control over the project. • He spoke to her in a soft but *firm* voice. • The time has come for us to take a *firm* stand. • The children need gentle but *firm* handling.

4 a : not likely to change or be changed • We've made *firm* [=definite] plans for next weekend. • a *firm price/estimate/offer* • The dollar remained *firm* against the euro. • reaching a *firm conclusion/decision* • They haven't set a *firm date* for their wedding. • The campaign has taken a *firm hold* on the public's imagination. b : having or showing true and constant support for something or someone • I'm a *firm* [=strong] believer in the value of exercise. = I have a *firm belief* in the value of exercise. • Those two are *firm friends*. [=they are very close friends]

hold firm see ¹HOLD

stand firm see ¹STAND

— **firm-ly** *adv* • They stood *firmly* [=steadfastly, solidly] behind their boss. • He pulled the hat down *firmly* over his ears. • I *firmly* [=strongly] believe in the value of exercise. • She's got her feet *firmly* (planted) on the ground. [=she is a practical and sensible person] — **firm-ness** *noun [noncount]* • the *firmness* of the mattress • the *firmness* of the price/estimate/offer

2 *firm* *verb* *firms; firmed; firm-ing*

1 [+ *obj*] : to put (something, such as a plan) into a final form — usually + *up* • We still need to *firm up* our vacation plans.

2 [+ *obj*] : to make (something) harder or more solid : to make (something) less loose • I've been doing exercises to *firm* (up) and strengthen my stomach muscles. • She *firmed* [=tightened] her grip on the racket.

3 [+ *obj*] : to make (something) stronger • Her early failures only *firmed* [=strengthened] her resolve (to succeed).

4 [*no obj*] : to become less likely to change or become weaker • The market is *firming*. — often + *up* • The market is *firming up*. • Imports are rising and prices are *firming up*.

— *firming* *adj* • a *firming* cream [=a cream that makes your skin less loose]

3 *firm* *noun, pl firms* [*count*] : a business organization • a law *firm* • a consulting *firm* [=company]

firmament /'fəməmənt/ *noun* [*noncount*] *formal + literary* : the sky • meteors flashing across the *firmament* — sometimes used figuratively to refer to an area of interest or activity • He was once the brightest star in the literary *firmament*.

firmware /'fəmwɛə/ *noun* [*noncount*] *computers* : computer programs that are contained permanently in a device

1 *first* /'fɜːst/ *adj*

1 : coming before all others in time, order, or importance • She won *first* prize. • We sat in the *first* row. • his *first* wife • her *first* book/child • in the *first* century • his *first* offense • her *first* kiss • She succeeded on her *first* attempt/try. • He was (the) *first* in line. • We will correct these errors at the *first* opportunity. [=as soon as it is possible to do so] • English is not my *first* [=native] language. [=it is not the language I learned first; I learned to speak another language before I learned to speak English] • She's in *first* grade. [=the first level in school after kindergarten] • I still remember the *first* time I saw her. • You should leave at the *first* [=earliest] hint of trouble. • My *first* [=initial] impulse was to say no. • This is a matter of the *first* [=highest] importance. • Your *first* [=main] concern should be to get well. • the captain and the *first* mate [=the officer on a ship who is most important after the captain] • She was accused of murder *in the first degree*. [=first-degree murder; the most serious kind of murder]

2 — used to refer to the lowest forward gear or speed of a vehicle • I couldn't get the car out of *first* gear.

3 : having or playing the main part in a group of instruments • *first* violin

at first blush or *at first glance* also *at first sight* : when first seen or considered • *At first blush*, the proposal seems ridiculous. • It appears *at first glance/sight* to be a simple matter of hiring more people.

at first hand : in a direct way : *FIRSTHAND* • I had a chance to verify his claims *at first hand*.

first among equals ♦ A person who is *first among equals* is the leader of a group of people but is officially considered equal in rights and status to the other members of the group. • As a director, he encourages collaboration and considers himself only (the) *first among equals*.

first thing 1 *the first thing* : anything at all — used in negative statements • He doesn't know/understand *the first thing* about the problems we've been having. 2 : before anything else : right away : very early • I'll be back *first thing* (on) Monday morning. • She promised to call *first thing* in the morning.

first things first — used to say that you should do the things that are most important before doing other things • I know you're eager to start shopping for a car, but *first things first*—you need to find out how much you can afford to spend. • You must set priorities and learn how to *put first things first*.

in the first flush of see ¹FLUSH

in the first instance see ¹INSTANCE

in the first place see ¹PLACE

love at first sight see ¹LOVE

2 *first* *adv*

1 *a* : before any other in time, order, or importance • I have to pay him *first*. • She finished *first* in the race. = She came in *first* in the race. = (Brit) She came *first* in the race. • You go *first*. • He said it *first*. • These problems are not as simple as they *first* appear. *b* : for the first time • I loved her when I *first* saw her. • We met *first* at a party. = We *first* met at a party. • This word was *first* recorded in the 19th century. *c* : before doing other things • We'll get started soon, but *first* we have to make sure everyone is here.

2 — used to introduce a statement that is the first in a series of statements • *First*, let me explain my reasons for calling this meeting. • I want to talk about several things in this meeting. *First*, the schedule. Second, . . . — often used in the phrases *first of all* and *first off* • Let me explain, *first of all*, why I called this meeting. • *First off*, there's some confusion we have to clear up.

come first : to be more important than other things • My career is important, but my family *comes first*.

first and foremost : at the most basic level • He is *first and foremost* [=primarily, fundamentally] a teacher.

first and last : at the most basic level : in all respects • This is *first and last* a matter of national security.

first come, first served or *first come, first serve* — used to say that the people who arrive earliest get served or treated before the people who arrive later • The campsites are *first come, first served*, so we'd better get there early. = The campsites are assigned on a *first-come-first-serve* basis, so we'd better get there early. • "Aren't there any cookies left?" "Sorry—*first come, first served*."

— see also FEETFIRST, HEADFIRST

3 *first* *noun, pl firsts*

1 : something that is first: such as *a* [*count*] : an occurrence, achievement, etc., that happens or exists before any other of that kind • Her solo flight across the Atlantic was a remarkable *first*. • They were responsible for several engineering *firsts*. *b* [*noncount*] : the position of the winner in a competition or contest • He took *first* [=finished in first place] in the pie-eating contest. *c* [*noncount*] : the lowest forward gear or speed of a car, truck, etc. • I couldn't get the car out of *first*. *d* [*count*] : a degree of the highest level from a British university • take/get a *first* in English

2 [*noncount*] *baseball* : *FIRST BASE* • a runner on *first* • Who's playing *first*?

at first : when something first happens or begins to happen : when you first notice or consider something • We didn't like each other *at first*. [=when we met] • *At first* I thought she was crying, but then I realized she was actually laughing. • The book bored me *at first*. [=initially]

from the first : from the beginning • I've loved her *from the first*.

4 *first* *pronoun*

1 : the first one or ones • They were among the *first* in line. • It was the *first* of many delays. • I'll be the *first* to admit when I've done something wrong. • He was the *first* to arrive. • She was born on the *first* of May. [=on May 1] • The son of King Charles the *First* became King Charles the Second.

2 : the first time • She's not coming? Well, that's the *first* I've heard of it! [=I did not know that before now]

first aid *noun* [*noncount*] : emergency treatment given to a sick or injured person • She gave him *first aid* for his sprained ankle. ♦ A *first aid kit* is a set of materials and tools used for giving first aid.

first base *noun* [*singular*] *baseball* : the base that must be touched first by a base runner • a runner on *first base*; also : the position of the player who defends the area around first base • She hit a ground ball to *first base*. • He used to be a catcher, but now he plays *first base*. — compare HOME PLATE, SECOND BASE, THIRD BASE

get to first base chiefly US, informal : to make the first step in a course or process that you hope will lead further — usually used in negative statements • Her proposal to change the tax laws never *got to first base*. [=never had any success at all] • He kept asking her out, but he couldn't even *get to first base*. [=she would not agree to go on even one date with him]

first base-man /-'beɪsmən/ *noun, pl ~ -men* /-,men/ [*count*] *baseball* : the player who defends the area around first base • an all-star *first baseman*

first-born /'fɜːst'boʊn/ *adj* : born first • their *firstborn* [=eldest, oldest] child

— *firstborn* *noun, pl -borns* [*count*] • Parents often spoil their *firstborns*.

first class *noun* [*noncount*] : the best or highest group or class: such as *a* : the best of usually three kinds of service you can have when you travel • flying in *first class* *b* : a class of mail in the U.S. that includes letters and postcards *c* : a class of mail in the U.K. that includes letters and packages which are delivered sooner than ordinary second-class mail but cost more to send

first-class /'fɜːst'klæs, Brit 'fɜːst'klaːs/ *adj*

1 : of or relating to first class • passengers in the *first-class*

cabin • raising the rates for *first-class* mail
2 : of the best quality : of the highest excellence • a *first-class* telescope/meal • *first-class* [=excellent, superior] work
 – **first-class** *adv* • They insist on flying *first-class*. • I'd like to send this package *first-class*.

first cousin *noun, pl ~ -ins* [count] : a child of your aunt or uncle : COUSIN 1a • He's her *first cousin*. = He and she are *first cousins*. — compare SECOND COUSIN

first-de-gree /'fəst'di'gri:/ *adj, always used before a noun*
1 US : of the most serious type : deserving the harshest punishment • *first-degree* murder/theft/arson
2 : of the least harmful or mildest type • He suffered a *first-degree* burn. — compare SECOND-DEGREE, THIRD-DEGREE

first down *noun, pl ~ downs* [noncount] American football : the first of a series of usually four downs in which a team must gain 10 yards to keep the ball • They have *first down* on the 20-yard line.; also [count] : the right to start a new series of downs after a gain of 10 or more yards • The pass was completed for a *first down*.

first edition *noun, pl ~ -tions* [singular] : the first set of printed copies of a book • There were many errors in the book's *first edition*.; also [count] : a single copy from such a set • She owns a valuable *first edition* of *Huckleberry Finn*.

first family *noun, pl ~ -lies* [count]
1 or *First Family* : the family of the U.S. president • The *First Family* will be vacationing on a ranch this year.
2 : a family that has great importance, influence, or success in a specified activity or profession • He and his sons are considered the *first family* of jazz.

first floor *noun, pl ~ floors* [count]
1 US : the floor of a building that is at ground level : GROUND FLOOR
2 Brit : the floor of a building that is immediately above the ground floor

first-hand /'fəst'hænd/ *adj* : coming directly from actually experiencing or seeing something • He gave a *firsthand* account of the battle. • She draws on *firsthand* experiences for her novel. — compare SECONDDHAND; see also at *first hand* at ¹FIRST
 – **firsthand** *adv* • He knows *firsthand* how difficult school can be.

first lady *noun, pl ~ ladies* [count]
1 or *First Lady* : the wife of the U.S. president • The President and the *First Lady* attended the concert.
2 : a woman who has great importance, influence, or success in a specified activity or profession • the *first lady* of American dance

first lieutenant *noun, pl ~ -ants* [count]
1 : an officer in the U.S. Army, Air Force, or Marine Corps who ranks below a captain
2 : a naval officer who is responsible for keeping a ship in good condition

first light *noun* [noncount] : the time when light is first seen in the morning : DAWN • She was up at *first light*.

first-line /'fəst'lain/ *adj, always used before a noun, chiefly US*
1 : used or chosen first • *first-line* treatment/therapy
2 : available to be used immediately • *first-line* troops

first-ly /'fəstli/ *adv* — used to introduce a statement that is the first in a series of statements • *Firstly*, we need to consider the issue of providing people with affordable health care. ♦ *Firstly* is chiefly used to begin lists and is usually followed by *secondly*, *thirdly*, etc. • I have several concerns. *Firstly*, the lack of funding. *Secondly*, ... ♦ In U.S. English, *first* is more common than *firstly* in this use. • I have several concerns. *First*, the lack of funding. *Second*, ... — compare LASTLY, SECONDLY, THIRDLY

first name *noun, pl ~ names* [count] : the name that comes first in someone's full name • Children at the school call their teachers by their *first names*. — compare LAST NAME, MIDDLE NAME, SURNAME
 – **first-name** *adj* ♦ People who are on a *first-name basis* (US) or on *first-name terms* (Brit) know each other well and address each other by their first names. • He was on a *first-name basis* with his boss. • They know most of the officials on a *first-name basis*. — sometimes used figuratively • She was on a *first-name basis* with adversity. [=she experienced a lot of adversity]

first offender *noun, pl ~ -ers* [count] law : a person who is convicted for the first time of committing a crime • Because he was a *first offender*, he was put on probation rather than sentenced to jail.

first person *noun* [noncount]
1 : a set of words or word forms (such as pronouns or verb forms) that refer to the person who is speaking or writing — often used before another noun • *Me* is the objective case of the *first person* singular pronoun *I*, and *us* is the objective case of the *first person* plural pronoun *we*.

2 : a writing style that uses first person pronouns and verbs • She always wrote in the *first person*. • The sentence "I was born in Maine" is written in the *first person*. — compare SECOND PERSON, THIRD PERSON

first-rate /'fəst'reit/ *adj* : of the best quality : EXCELLENT • a *first-rate* chef/book/education • The service was *first-rate*.

first-run /'fəst'rʌn/ *adj, always used before a noun* : available for the public to see for the first time • *first-run* movies

first strike *noun, pl ~ strikes* [count] : a nuclear attack against an enemy before the enemy can attack • launch a *first strike*

– **first-strike** *adj, always used before a noun* • a *first-strike* capability/threat

first-string /'fəst'striŋ/ *adj, US, sports* : most skillful • the *first-string* quarterback/catcher ♦ The *first-string* players on a team play first in the game because they are considered the best players. This term is also sometimes used figuratively. • The newspaper sent its *first-string* [=best] critic to review the play. — compare SECOND-STRING

first-time *adj, always used before a noun*
1 : doing something for the first time • *first-time* home buyers [=people who are buying a home for the first time] • a *first-time* visitor • a *first-time* author [=a person who has written a book for the first time]
2 : done for the first time • The punishment for a *first-time* offense of this kind is a fine.

first world or **First World** *noun* [singular] : the countries of the world that have many industries and relatively few poor people : the rich nations of the world — compare THIRD WORLD

fis-cal /'fiskəl/ *adj* : of or relating to money and especially to the money a government, business, or organization earns, spends, and owes • *fiscal* policy/responsibility • a *fiscal* crisis • a *fiscal* conservative • the *fiscal* health of the university/orchestra
 – **fis-cal-ly** *adv* • *fiscally* sound policies • *fiscally* conservative

fiscal year *noun, pl ~ years* [count] chiefly US : a 12-month period used by a government, business, or organization to calculate how much money is being earned, spent, etc. • Sales were up in the last *fiscal year*. • Our *fiscal year* runs from October 1 to September 30. — called also (Brit) *financial year*; compare CALENDAR YEAR

¹fish /'fiʃ/ *noun, pl fish or fish-es*
1 [count] : a cold-blooded animal that lives in water, breathes with gills, and usually has fins and scales • a small *fish* • an ocean/river *fish* [=a kind of fish that lives in an ocean/river] — see color picture on page C8

usage When you are talking about more than one fish, the plural *fish* is more commonly used than *fishes*. • We caught several *fish*. When you are talking about more than one kind or species of fish, both *fishes* and *fish* are used. • varieties of tropical *fish* • all the *fishes* of the sea

2 [noncount] : the meat of a fish eaten as food • We're having *fish* for dinner.

a *big fish in a small pond* (chiefly US) or Brit a *big fish in a little pond* : a person who is very well known or important in a small group of people but who is not known or important outside that group • In school he was a *big fish in a small pond*, but once he moved to the city he was just another struggling actor.

a *fish out of water* : a person who is in a place or situation that seems unnatural or uncomfortable • He's a small-town boy who feels like a *fish out of water* here in the big city.

drink like a fish see ¹DRINK

fish in the sea informal — used to say that there are many more people available for a romantic relationship • "I know you're sad because you and your boyfriend broke up, but he's not the only fish in the sea." "You're right. There are many/plenty more fish in the sea."

fish to fry informal : things to do or deal with • We'll have to address that problem tomorrow. Right now we've got other/bigger fish to fry. [=we've got other/bigger problems that we need to give our attention to]

neither fish nor fowl : a person or thing that does not be-

long to a particular class or category • The movie is *neither fish nor fowl*—it's not really a comedy, but it's too light-hearted to be called a drama.

odd/queer fish *Brit, informal* : a strange or unusual person • She's really quite an *odd fish*.

— see also COLD FISH, *kettle of fish* at KETTLE

— **fish-less** /'fɪʃləs/ *adj* • a *fishless* lake — **fish-like** /'fɪʃlaɪk/ *adj* • a *fishlike* tail

²**fish** *verb* **fish-es; fished; fish-ing**

1 *a* [no *obj*] : to catch or try to catch fish • I love to *fish*. • We spent the afternoon *fishing* for trout. **b** [+ *obj*] : to catch or try to catch fish in (a river, stream, etc.) • They *fished* the stream all morning.

2 [no *obj*] : to search for something by feeling : to use your hand to try to find something • She was *fishing* around in her purse for her keys.

fish for [*phrasal verb*] **fish for (something)** : to ask for or try to get (something, such as praise or attention) in an indirect way • I think he offers apologies for his cooking as a way of *fishing* for compliments. [=as a way of getting people to say that they like the food he cooks] • *fishing* for answers

fish or cut bait *US, informal* : to stop hesitating and choose to do or not do something • It's time for the company to *fish or cut bait*. We either take the job or turn it down.

fish out [*phrasal verb*] **fish (something) out** or **fish out (something)** **1** : to pull (something) out of water or some other liquid • The police *fished* the car out of the harbor. • She *fished* the sugar packet out of her iced tea. **2** : to pull (something) out from a container, bag, etc. • She reached into her purse and *fished out* her keys.

fish and chips *noun* : a meal that consists of fried fish and french-fried potatoes — used with both singular and plural verbs • The restaurant's *fish and chips* is/are delicious.

fish-bowl /'fɪʃ,bəʊl/ *noun, pl -bowls* [*count*]

1 : a bowl used for keeping live fish

2 *chiefly US* : a place or condition in which there is no privacy • Being a politician these days means living in a *fishbowl*—every part of your life is open to public view.

fish cake *noun, pl ~ cakes* [*count*] : a round fried cake made of a mixture of fish and mashed potatoes

fish-er-man /'fɪʃəməˌn/ *noun, pl -men* /-məˌn/ [*count*] : a person (especially a man) who catches fish

fish-er-wom-an /'fɪʃəwʊməˌn/ *noun, pl -wom-en* /-wɪməˌn/ [*count*] : a woman who catches fish

fish-ery /'fɪʃəri/ *noun, pl -er-ies* [*count*]

1 : a part of the ocean where fish and other sea creatures are caught • an oyster *fishery* • a salmon *fishery* • coastal *fisheries*

2 : a business that catches and sells fish • small commercial *fisheries*

fish-eye lens *noun, pl ~ lenses* [*count*] *photography* : a camera lens that shows an extremely wide area with curved edges

fish farm *noun, pl ~ farms* [*count*] : a place where fish are raised for food

fish finger *noun, pl ~ -gers* [*count*] *Brit* : FISH STICK

fish fry *noun, pl ~ fries* [*count*] *US* : a meal or event at which the main food served is fried fish • a community *fish fry*

fish-hook *noun, pl -hooks* [*count*] : a small curved piece of metal that is attached to the end of a piece of fishing line and used to catch fish — see picture at HOOK

fishing *noun* [*noncount*] : the sport or business of catching fish • The *fishing* was pretty good today. • I'm *going fishing* this weekend. — often used before another noun • I bought a *fishing* pole/rod and some *fishing* line. • a store that sells *fishing* gear — see also FLY-FISHING, *fishing expedition* at EXPEDITION

fish-mong-er /'fɪʃ,mɑːŋgə, 'fɪʃ,mʌŋgə/ *noun, pl -ers* [*count*] *chiefly Brit* : a person or shop that sells fish • You can get fresh cod at the *fishmonger's*.

fish-net /'fɪʃ,nɛt/ *noun, pl -nets*

1 [*count*] : a net for catching fish

2 [*noncount*] : a type of fabric that has many small holes like a net — usually used before another noun • *fishnet* stockings • a *fishnet* shirt

fish slice *noun, pl ~ slices* [*count*] *Brit* : SPATULA

fish stick *noun, pl ~ sticks* [*count*] *US* : a long and thin piece of fish that is breaded and cooked

fish story *noun, pl ~ stories* [*count*] *US* : an exaggerated story : a story that is so strange or surprising that it seems

fishing



very unlikely to be true • He told a ridiculous *fish story* about a swarm of giant mosquitoes.

fish-tail /'fɪʃ,tɛɪl/ *verb -tails; -tailed; -tail-ing* [*no obj*] *chiefly US, of a car, truck, etc.* : to slide in an uncontrolled way with the rear end going from side to side • The car *fish-tailed* on the icy curve.

fish-wife /'fɪʃ,wʌɪf/ *noun, pl -wives* /-wʌɪvz/ [*count*] *old-fashioned*

1 : a woman who sells fish

2 : a rude and rough woman

fishy /'fɪʃi/ *adj* **fish-i-er; -est**

1 : of or relating to fish; *especially* : tasting or smelling like a fish • a *fishy* odor/taste

2 *informal* : causing doubt or suspicion : likely to be bad, untrue, dishonest, etc. • That story sounds/smells *fishy* [=suspicious, dubious] to me. • There's something *fishy* about that guy.

fis-sion /'fɪʃn/ *noun* [*noncount*]

1 *physics* : a process in which the nucleus of a heavy atom is split apart • A large amount of energy is released when *fission* occurs. — called also *nuclear fission*; compare FUSION

2 *biology* : a kind of reproduction in which a cell or body divides into two or more parts and each part grows into a whole new individual

fis-sure /'fɪʃə/ *noun, pl -sures* [*count*] : a narrow opening or crack • rock *fissures* • a *fissure* in the Earth's crust • a deep *fissure* in the ice — sometimes used figuratively • ideological *fissures* in a political party

— **fis-sured** /'fɪʃəd/ *adj* [more ~; most ~] • a heavily *fissured* rock face

fist /'fɪst/ *noun, pl fists* [*count*] : the hand with its fingers bent down into the palm • He pounded his *fist* on the table in anger. • She pounded on the door with both *fists*. • a clenched *fist* • make a *fist* • He defiantly shook his *fist* at the policeman. *hand over fist* see ¹HAND

make a good fist of *Brit, informal* : to do (something) well • Despite her inexperience, she *made a* remarkably *good fist* of chairing the meeting.

make a poor fist of *Brit, informal* : to do (something) badly • He *made a* poor *fist* of explaining his reasons.

rule with an iron fist see ²RULE

fist-fight /'fɪst,fʌɪt/ *noun, pl -fights* [*count*] : a fight in which people hit each other with their fists • A *fistfight* broke out in the stands. • He often gets into *fistfights*.

fist-ful /'fɪst,fʊl/ *noun, pl -fuls* [*count*]

1 : an amount that can be held in one hand : HANDFUL • a *fistful* of coins

2 : a somewhat large number or amount • She has won a *fistful* of awards.

fist-i-cuffs /'fɪstɪ,kʌfs/ *noun* [*plural*] *old-fashioned* : a fight with fists • engaging in *fisticuffs* • It was a loud debate that

ended in *fisticuffs*. — sometimes used figuratively • legal *fisticuffs*

¹fit /'fɪt/ *adj* **fit·ter; -test**

1 a : proper or acceptable : morally or socially correct — often + *for* • a movie *fit* [=suitable] *for* the whole family • This is not a *fit* subject *for* discussion with children. • a subject not *fit* *for* discussion — often followed by *to* + *verb* • a subject not *fit to be* discussed **b** : suitable for a specified purpose — often + *for* • This water is not *fit for* drinking. • The building is no longer *fit for* human habitation. — often followed by *to* + *verb* • This water is not *fit to drink*. • The building is no longer *fit for* people *to live* in.

2 a : physically healthy and strong • physically *fit* • He felt overmatched against *fitter* [=healthier], stronger players. • Patients are encouraged to get/keep *fit*. • Are you *fit* enough to walk there? **b** *Brit slang* : sexually attractive : SEXY

3 : having the necessary skills — usually + *for* • I just don't think he's *fit* [=qualified] *for* this job.

4 : made ready : put in a suitable state — usually + *for* • get the ship *fit* [=prepared] *for* sea

fit as a fiddle also *Brit fit as a flea informal* : in good physical condition : very healthy and strong • I feel (as) *fit as a fiddle* this morning.

fit for a king : good enough even for a king : very good • a meal (that is) *fit for a king*

fit to be tied informal : very angry or upset • Dad was *fit to be tied* when my sister came home late last night.

fit to burst chiefly Brit, informal : very much • laugh/shout *fit to burst*

fit to kill US, informal : in an impressive way that attracts attention • He was dressed *fit to kill*.

see/think fit ✧ *To see fit or think fit* to do something is to choose to do it because you think it is right or appropriate. • She can spend her money as she *sees fit*. [=she can spend her money as she chooses] • She let him do his job as he *thought fit*. • They might *see fit* [=choose, decide] to make some adjustments.

— **fit-ness** *noun* [noncount] • No one questioned her *fitness* for the job. • The program promotes healthy eating and *physical fitness* [=being healthy through exercise]

²fit *verb* **fits; fit·ted or chiefly US fit; fit·ting**

1 *not used in progressive tenses* : to be the right size and shape for (someone or something) [+ *obj*] The suit *fits* him perfectly. • I hope this key *fits* the lock. • The two pieces *fit* each other perfectly. [no *obj*] These shoes *fit* perfectly. • This calculator will *fit* nicely/neatly in your shirt pocket. • pants that *fit* tightly/loosely = tight-fitting/loose-fitting pants • The two pieces *fit* together perfectly. ✧ Something that *fits (you) like a glove* fits (you) very well. • That suit *fits him like a glove*. ✧ The phrase *one size fits all* describes a hat, piece of clothing, etc., that is made in a size that is supposed to fit everyone. This phrase is commonly used figuratively. • The school recognizes that a *one size fits all* approach won't work for these children. [=these children need to be taught in a way that considers the needs and abilities of each child]

2 *not used in progressive tenses* **a** [no *obj*] : to go into or through a particular space • All these groceries won't *fit* in the trunk of my car. = These groceries won't all *fit* in the trunk of my car. • How many people can *fit* in a phone booth? • The box was too large to *fit* through the door. **b** [+ *obj*] : to cause (something) to go into or through a particular space • I can't *fit* all these groceries into the trunk of my car. • We weren't able to *fit* the box through the door.

3 *past tense and past participle fitted* [+ *obj*] **a** : to measure (someone) in order to choose clothes that are the right size and shape for that person — usually used as (be) *fitted* • I'm *being fitted* [=measured] for a new suit tomorrow. **b** : to change the shape or form of (a piece of clothing) for a particular person • *fitting* the jacket to the customer

4 [+ *obj*] : to find time to meet with (someone) or do (something) — usually + *in* or *into* • I'll try to *fit* you *into* my schedule. • The doctor can *fit* you *in* this afternoon. [=the doctor can meet with you this afternoon] • She's got a lot of meetings to *fit in* this morning.

5 [no *obj*] : to belong in a particular situation, place, or group • It's a good school, but I feel like I just don't *fit* here. — usually + *in* • I was looking for a group that I could *fit in* with. • No matter how hard she tried, she just didn't *fit in*. • He *fit* right *in* at school. • That chair *fits in* well with the rest of the office.

6 *not used in progressive tenses* [+ *obj*] **a** : to be suitable or appropriate for (someone or something) • The nickname *fits* [=suits] him very well. • The punishment should *fit* the crime.

b : to make (someone or something) suitable or appropriate for or to something • Her previous experience *fitted* [=qualified] her *for* the job. • Let us *fit* the punishment *to* the crime.

7 *not used in progressive tenses* [+ *obj*] : to be in agreement with (something or someone) • Their story doesn't *fit* the facts. • He *fits* [=matches] the description perfectly. = The description *fits* him perfectly.

8 *past tense and past participle fitted* [+ *obj*] : to supply equipment for (something) • a lab *fitted* with the latest equipment • The camera can be *fitted* with many different lenses. — often + *out* or *up* • *fit out* an expedition • an old ocean liner *fitted up* as a hospital ship

fit the bill see ¹BILL

if the cap fits see ¹CAP

if the shoe fits see ¹SHOE

— **fit·ter** /'fɪtə/ *noun*, *pl* **-ters** [count] • a shoe/boot *fitter* [=a person whose job is to help you find a shoe/boot that fits] — see also PIPE FITTER

³fit *noun*, *pl* **fits** [count] : the way something fits : the way something suits the size and shape of your body or goes into or through a particular space • The *fit* of this shirt is a bit tight. • a loose/snug *fit* • It's a tight *fit* but I think we can get the box through the door. • a comfortable *fit* • That dress is a good *fit* for you. [=that dress fits you well; it is the right size and shape for your body] — compare ⁴FIT

⁴fit *noun*, *pl* **fits** [count]

1 : an uncontrolled expression of strong emotion • He threw a *fit* [=he became very angry and upset] when they accused him of cheating. • She has/throws a *fit* [=tantrum] when she doesn't get what she wants.

2 : a sudden occurrence of some activity, emotion, etc. • a *fit of* anger • a *fit of* coughing = a coughing *fit* • He apologized profusely in a *fit of* remorse. • The joke sent the audience into *fits of* laughter. [=it made the people in the audience laugh a lot]

3 : an abnormal state in which you become unconscious and your body moves in an uncontrolled and violent way • an epileptic *fit* [=more commonly] *seizure*

by fits and starts or in fits and starts : by stopping and starting again : in a way that is not constant or steady • Their courtship was gradual, proceeding *by fits and starts*. • Progress came only *in fits and starts*.

in fits *Brit, informal* : laughing very much : in fits of laughter • The audience was *in fits*. [=in stitches]

— compare ³FIT

fit·ful /'fɪtəl/ *adj* [more ~; most ~] : not regular or steady • He had a few *fitful* hours of sleep. • Several *fitful* attempts at negotiation have failed. • making slow, *fitful* progress

— **fit·ful·ly** *adv* • progressing *fitfully* • He slept *fitfully* [=restlessly] for a few hours. — **fit·ful·ness** *noun* [noncount]

fit·ted /'fɪtəd/ *adj* : shaped for a precise fit • a *fitted* sheet; especially : designed to match the shape of a person's body • He was wearing a *fitted* shirt.

¹fit·ting /'fɪtɪŋ/ *adj* [more ~; most ~] : of a kind that is appropriate for the situation or purpose • It was a *fitting* end to their rivalry. • It seemed only *fitting* [=proper, right] that she should win her final tournament. • a *fitting* memorial/tribute — **fit·ting·ly** *adv* • *Fittingly* [=appropriately], she won her final tournament.

²fitting *noun*, *pl* **-tings** [count]

1 : the act of putting on clothes to see if they fit properly • I have a *fitting* for my wedding dress this afternoon.

2 : a small part • a pipe *fitting* • brass/electrical *ittings*

3 *Brit* : something (such as a refrigerator or a bookcase) that is in a house or building but can be removed if the house or building is sold — usually plural • pay extra for fixtures and *ittings*

fitting room *noun*, *pl* ~ **rooms** [count] : a room in a store in which customers can put on a piece of clothing to see if it fits before they buy it — called also *dressing room*

five /'faɪv/ *noun*, *pl* **fives**

1 [count] : the number 5

2 [count] : the fifth in a set or series • the *five* of clubs • page *five*

3 [noncount] : five o'clock • I get off work at *five*. • The store is open until *five*.

4 [count] **a** *US* : a five-dollar bill • The total cost was \$3.83 and she gave him a *five*. **b** *Brit* : a five-pound note : FIVER

— **five** *adj* • *five* years — **five** *pronoun* • *Five* (of them) are missing.

five-and-dime /,faɪvən'daɪm/ *noun*, *pl* **-dimes** [count] *US, old-fashioned* : a store that sells inexpensive things • the

local *five-and-dime* — called also *dime store*, *five-and-ten* /-ˈtɛn/

five-fold /ˈfɑːv,fould/ *adj* : five times as great or as many • There has been a *fivefold* increase in membership this year.

— **five-fold** /ˈfɑːvˈfould/ *adv* • Membership has increased *fivefold*.

five-o'clock shadow *noun*, *pl* ~ **-ows** [*count*] : the beginning of a beard that you can see late in the afternoon on the face of a man who has not shaved since morning

fiv-er /ˈfaɪvə/ *noun*, *pl* **-ers** [*count*] *Brit*, *informal* : a five-pound note

five-spice powder *noun* [*noncount*] : a mixture of spices that is used in Chinese cooking

five-star /ˈfɑːvˈstɑː/ *adj*, *always used before a noun* : of the best quality • a *five-star* hotel

¹fix /ˈfiks/ *verb* **fix-es; fixed; fix-ing** [+ *obj*]

1 a : to make (something) whole or able to work properly again : to repair (something) • He *fixed* the fence last weekend. • I need to *fix* this dent in my car. • *fix* a leaky faucet **b** : to deal with or correct (a problem) • Your proposals won't *fix* [=solve] anything. • People expect the schools to *fix* whatever is wrong with their kids.

2 : to attach (something) in such a way that it will not move • All tables on the ship will be *fixed* to the floor. : to connect or join (things) physically • *fix* [=attach, fasten] this sign to your door • The table was *fixed* firmly to the floor. • The scarf was *fixed* in place with a pin. — sometimes used figuratively • I want to *fix* this moment in my mind forever. [=I want to remember this moment forever]

3 a : to set or place (something) definitely • They haven't yet *fixed* the date of their wedding. • They *fixed* the price at \$10. • illegal price *fixing* **b** : to find out (something) with certainty • Investigators are still attempting to *fix* the exact time of the accident. • We're trying to *fix* [=get a fix on] the ship's location. **c** : to arrange the details of something • My lawyer *fixed* it [=made arrangements] so I wouldn't have to go to court.

4 chiefly US **a** : to make (something, such as a meal) ready • *fix* [=prepare, make] dinner • Can I *fix* [=make] you a drink? = Can I *fix* a drink for you? **b informal** : to make (someone's hair, makeup, etc.) neat or attractive • We had to wait 10 minutes while she *fixed* her hair. • *fixing* her lipstick/makeup

5 : to control or affect (something, such as a game or election) in a dishonest way • They were accused of *fixing* games in college. • The election was *fixed*. • *fix* a parking ticket [=arrange for someone to not have to pay a fine for parking illegally]

6 : to change the appearance of (someone's face, nose, etc.) through surgery • She wants to get her nose *fixed*.

7 informal : to do something to punish (someone who has treated you badly or unfairly) • They thought they could cheat me, but I *fixed* them good. • I'll *fix* you!

8 US : to make (an animal) unable to reproduce : to neuter or spay (an animal) • You should have your dog/cat *fixed*.

9 US, informal + old-fashioned : to be or get ready to do something • They were *fixing* to leave. • It looks like it's *fixing* to rain. [=it's about to rain] ♦ This sense of *fix* is sometimes used humorously to suggest the speech of cowboys in western movies.

10 technical : to change (nitrogen) into a stable or useful form • bacteria that *fix* nitrogen

fix on/upon [*phrasal verb*] **fix on/upon** (something) **1** : to direct your attention or thoughts toward (something) : to focus on (something) • He has *fixed on/upon* the idea of going back to school. • All eyes *fixed on* her as she entered the room. [=everyone looked at her as she entered the room]

2 : to make a decision about or choose (something) • After weeks of discussion, they've finally *fixed on* a solution.

fix (someone) with a stare/look (etc.) : to look directly at (someone) usually in an angry way • She *fixed him with an angry stare*. [=she stared at him angrily]

fix up [*phrasal verb*] **1 fix up** (something) or **fix** (something) **up** : to improve the appearance or condition of (something, such as a building) by repairing it, making changes to it, etc. • We spent thousands of dollars *fixing up* our house. — see also **FIXER-UPPER** **2 fix** (someone or something) **up** *chiefly US* : to make (someone or something) more attractive or fancy • I need a few minutes to *fix myself up* before we leave. • She got herself all *fixed up* [=dressed up, spruced up] for the party. **3 fix** (someone) **up** **a** : to provide (someone) with something that is needed or

wanted • They can *fix* you *up* with a rental car at the airport. **b** : to provide a possible boyfriend or girlfriend for (someone) : to arrange a date for (someone) • My mother tried to *fix* me *up* with one of her friends' sons.

fix your eyes/gaze (etc.) on/upon : to look at (someone or something) steadily • Everyone *fixed their eyes on* her as she entered the room.

fix your hopes/sights (etc.) on/upon : to direct your hopes, efforts, etc., toward (something) • They *fixed their sights on* winning the championship. • She *has her hopes fixed on* a career in journalism. [=she hopes/wants to have a career in journalism]

if it ain't broke, don't fix it see ²**BROKE**

— **fix-able** /ˈfiksəbəl/ *adj* • All the car's problems are *fixable*.

— **fix-er** /ˈfiksə/ *noun*, *pl* **-ers** [*count*]

²fix *noun*, *pl* **fix-es** [*count*]

1 : a difficult or embarrassing situation • I found myself in an awful *fix*. [=mess, predicament]

2 : something that solves a problem : **SOLUTION** • There's no easy *fix* to this problem. • a quick *fix*

3 : the act of dishonestly controlling or affecting something (such as a game or election) • The result was unexpected, and some people suspect a *fix*. • (US) It was obvious early in the game that *the fix was in*. [=the outcome of the game was being controlled or affected in a dishonest way]

4 : an amount of an illegal drug that someone wants or needs to have • He was desperately in search of his next *fix*. — often used figuratively • I got my nostalgia *fix* at my class reunion. • an ice-cream *fix*

5 a : the exact position of something (such as a ship or an airplane) • an accurate *fix* • We're trying to *get a fix on* the ship's location. [=trying to find or determine the ship's exact location] **b** : an accurate understanding of something • Voters are still trying to *get a fix on* her character. • Analysts are reading reports to *get a fix on* how the market will perform.

fix-ate /ˈfɪks,seɪt/ *verb* **-ates; -at-ed; -at-ing** [*no obj*] : to look at or think about something constantly : to give all of your attention to something — usually + *on* or *upon* • Why do journalists *fixate on* scandals?

— **fixated** *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] • Why are journalists are so *fixated on* scandals? — **fix-a-tion** /ˈfɪksˈeɪʃən/ *noun*, *pl* **-tions** [*count*] • The band is my latest music *fixation*. [=the music I am thinking about constantly most recently] • the media's *fixation on* scandals • society's *fixation on* [=obsession with] race

fixed /ˈfɪkst/ *adj*

1 a — used to describe something that does not change • a *fixed* interest rate • They are trying to live on a *fixed* income. • They have no *fixed* schedule. • Each contestant is allowed a *fixed* amount of time. • *fixed* costs/fees/prices • a *fixed* stare/ expression/smile • *fixed* ideas about right and wrong **b** : placed or attached in a way that does not move easily • a small mirror *fixed* to the wall • That day remains *fixed* in my memory. • All eyes were *fixed on* her as she entered the room. [=everyone looked at her as she entered the room]

2 informal : having something needed • They were well *fixed* for food. [=they had a good supply of food] • How are you *fixed* for money? [=do you have enough money?] • He's *fixed* for life. [=he has enough money to live comfortably for the rest of his life]

— **fix-ed-ly** /ˈfɪksədli/ *adv* • They stared *fixedly* at me.

fix-er-up-per /ˈfɪksəˌʌpə/ *noun*, *pl* **-pers** [*count*] *US, informal* : a house, apartment, etc., that is in bad condition and needs to be repaired • Their first house was a one-bedroom *fixer-upper*. — see also *fix up* at ¹**FIX**

fix-ings /ˈfɪksənz/ *noun* [*plural*] *US, informal* : foods that are traditionally served with the main dish of a particular meal • For Thanksgiving dinner my mother always made turkey with all the *fixings*. [=potatoes, vegetables, etc.]

fix-i-ty /ˈfɪksəti/ *noun*, *formal* : the state or quality of not changing [*noncount*] looking for safety and *fixity* [=stability] in the ever-changing world [*singular*] a *fixity* of purpose

fix-ture /ˈfɪkstʃə/ *noun*, *pl* **-tures** [*count*]

1 : something (such as a light, toilet, sink, etc.) that is attached to a house or building and that is not removed when the house or building is sold — usually plural • bathroom *fixtures* • lighting *fixtures* — compare ²**FITTING** **3**

2 : a person or thing that has been part of something or involved in something for a long time • He's been a *fixture* in the parade for many years. • She hopes the new educational program will become a permanent *fixture* at the zoo.

3 Brit, sports : a game played at a particular time and place •

I attended all their home fixtures [= (US) games] last year.

¹**fizz** /'fɪz/ *verb* **fizz-es; fizzed; fizz-ing** [no obj] : to make a sound like many small bubbles popping • The soda *fizzed*.

²**fizz** *noun, pl* **fizz-es**

1 [noncount] : a sound like many small bubbles popping • the characteristic *fizz* of champagne

2 [noncount] : energy and liveliness • All the *fizz* was gone from their relationship.

3 a [count] : a drink with many small bubbles • a gin *fizz* b [noncount] *Brit, informal* : CHAMPAGNE • a glass of *fizz*

– *fizzy* /'fɪzi/ *adj* **fizz-i-er; -est** • a *fizzy* [=bubbly, carbonated] soft drink • *fizzy* enthusiasm

fiz-zle /'fɪzəl/ *verb* **fiz-zles; fiz-zled; fiz-zling** [no obj] *informal* : to gradually fail or end

usage In U.S. English *fizzle* can be used by itself or with *out*. • The project ended up *fizzling*. • He had a great rookie season and then just *fizzled out*. In British English, *fizzle* is almost always followed by *out*. • Dance crazes tend to *fizzle out* quickly.

– **fizzle** *noun, pl* **fizzles** [count] • She felt responsible for her team's recent *fizzle*. [=failure, flop]

fjord *also fiord* /fi'ɔəd/ *noun, pl* **fjords** *also fiords* [count] : a narrow part of the ocean between cliffs or steep hills or mountains • the *fjords* of Norway

FL *abbr* Florida

Fla *abbr* Florida

flab /'flæb/ *noun* [noncount] *informal* : extra soft flesh on a person's body : excess body fat • stomach/arm *flab* — sometimes used figuratively • cutting jobs to eliminate corporate *flab*

– **flab-by** /'flæbi/ *adj* **flab-bi-er; -est** • *flabby* arms • *flabby* [=soft] muscles • She writes in a *flabby* [=loose] style that ruins the narrative. — **flab-bi-ness** /'flæbinəs/ *noun* [noncount] • the *flabbiness* of his muscles • moral/intellectual *flabbiness*

flab-ber-gast /'flæbə'gæst, *Brit* 'flæbə'gɑːst/ *verb* **-gasts; -gast-ed; -gast-ing** [+ obj] : to shock or surprise (someone) very much • It *flabbergasts* me to see how many people still support them. — often used as (be) *flabbergasted* • We *were flabbergasted* by/at the news that he'd won the game.

– **flabbergasting** *adj* [more ~; most ~] • *flabbergasting* news

flac-cid /'flæsəd/ *adj* [more ~; most ~]

1 : not firm : not hard or solid • *flaccid* muscles/tissue • a *flaccid* handshake

2 : lacking strength or force : WEAK • *flaccid* leadership • a *flaccid* response

¹**flack** /'flæk/ *noun, pl* **flacks** [count] *US, informal + disapproving* : a person whose job is to make people like or be interested in someone or something • a public relations *flack* • campaign *flacks* [=publicists, press agents]

²**flack** *variant spelling of* FLAK

¹**flag** /'flæg/ *noun, pl* **flags** [count]

1 : a piece of cloth with a special design that is used as a symbol of a nation or group • raise/lower the American *flag* • The *flag* was flying [=the flag was raised up on a pole] over the fort. ♦ To *fly/show/wave the flag* is to display the flag of your country as a sign of patriotism.

2 : a piece of cloth used as a signal or to attract attention • waving a *flag* of surrender/truce • a checkered *flag* • The referee threw a penalty *flag*. — see also RED FLAG, WHITE FLAG

– compare ⁴FLAG

²**flag** *verb* **flags; flagged; flag-ging** [+ obj]

1 : to signal (someone or something that is moving past you) to stop especially by raising or waving your hand • *flag* a taxi • I *flagged* the waiter for the check. — often + *down* • We should *flag* someone *down* and ask for directions.

2 : to mark (something, such as a page or section of a book) so that it can be easily seen or found • She *flagged* several pages for me to review.

3 *American football* : to signal that you are giving a penalty to (a player) by throwing a penalty flag • He was *flagged* for holding.

– compare ³FLAG

³**flag** *verb* **flags; flagged; flag-ging** [no obj]

1 : to become weak • Our interest *flagged* as the speaker droned on. • The good news boosted my *flagging* spirits. • Her energy shows no sign of *flagging* after all these years.

2 : to become less interesting, attractive, or valuable • He's trying to revive his *flagging* career. • *flagging* stock prices

– compare ²FLAG

⁴**flag** *noun, pl* **flags** [count] : FLAGSTONE — compare ¹FLAG
Flag Day *noun* [singular] : June 14 observed in the U.S. as the anniversary of the day the American flag was officially accepted in 1777

flag-el-late /'flædʒə'leɪt/ *verb* **-lates; -lat-ed; -lat-ing** [+ obj] *formal* : to hit (yourself or another person) with a whip as punishment or as part of a religious ritual — sometimes used figuratively • He *flagellated* [=severely criticized] himself for years for allowing the business to fail. — see also SELF-FLAGELLATION

– **flag-el-la-tion** /,flædʒə'leɪʃən/ *noun* [noncount] • ritual *flagellation*

flag football *noun* [noncount] : a form of American football in which the player with the ball is not tackled but instead must stop when another player removes a piece of cloth that is attached to the player's waist

flag-on /'flægən/ *noun, pl* **-ons** [count] *old-fashioned* : a container for liquids that usually has a handle, spout, and lid • a pewter *flagon*; *also* : the amount in a flagon • We drank a whole *flagon* of wine.

flag-pole /'flæg,pəʊl/ *noun, pl* **-poles** [count] : a tall pole from which a flag hangs : a pole used to display a flag

fla-grant /'fleɪgrənt/ *adj* [more ~; most ~] : very bad : too bad to be ignored • a *flagrant* violation • *flagrant* abuse of the law • her *flagrant* disregard for other people's rights • a *flagrant* error

– **fla-grant-ly** *adv* • *flagrantly* violating our rights

flag-ship /'flæg,ʃɪp/ *noun, pl* **-ships** [count]

1 : the ship that carries the commander of a group of ships • the *flagship* of the Atlantic fleet

2 : the best, largest, or most important one of a group of things (such as products, stores, etc.) — often used before another noun • the company's *flagship* store • The next game will be broadcast on our *flagship* station.

flag-staff /'flæg,stæf, *Brit* 'flæg,stɑːf/ *noun, pl* **-staffs** [count] : FLAGPOLE

flag-stone /'flæg,stəʊn/ *noun, pl* **-stones** [count] : a hard, flat piece of stone that is used for making paths • a walkway paved with *flagstones* — often used before another noun • a *flagstone* path

flag-wav-ing /'flæg,weɪvɪŋ/ *noun* [noncount] *usually disapproving* : words and actions that show very strong support for your government usually in a way that seems foolish or excessive • The essay is little more than *flag-waving*. — sometimes used before another noun • *flag-waving* rhetoric/patriotism

– **flag-wav-er** /'flæg,weɪvə/ *noun, pl* **-wav-ers** [count]

¹**flail** /'fleɪl/ *verb* **flails; flailed; flail-ing**

1 : to move or swing your arms or legs in a wild and uncontrolled way [+ obj] They were *flailing* their arms to drive away the insects. [no obj] The wounded animal lay on the ground, *flailing* helplessly. • He was wildly *flailing* about/around on the dance floor. • He *flailed* away at the ball. [=he swung wildly at the ball]

2 [+ obj] : to strike or hit (something or someone) in a wild and uncontrolled way • The bird's wings *flailed* the water.

²**flail** *noun, pl* **flails** [count] : a long-handled tool that was used in the past for beating wheat so that the grain would become separated from the wheat

flair /'fleə/ *noun* [singular]

1 : a natural ability to do something — usually + *for* • He has a *flair* for storytelling. • She has a *flair* for the dramatic. [=she tends to behave or talk in a very dramatic way]

2 : an unusual and appealing quality or style • a restaurant with a European *flair*

flak *also flack* /'flæk/ *noun* [noncount]

1 : exploding shells that are shot at enemy aircraft from guns on the ground

2 *informal* : harsh criticism • He caught/drew heavy *flak* for his decision to oppose the new school. • He took a lot of *flak* from the other kids for his unusual appearance.

¹**flake** /'fleɪk/ *noun, pl* **flakes** [count]

1 : a small, thin piece of something • delicate *flakes* of snow • white *flakes* of dandruff • soap *flakes* — see also CORN-FLAKES, SNOWFLAKE

2 *chiefly US, informal* : a strange or unusual person : ODD-BALL • He's a nice guy but he's a bit of a *flake*.

²**flake** *verb* **flakes; flaked; flak-ing** [no obj]

1 : to break apart into small, thin pieces • Bake the fish until it *flakes* easily when tested with a fork.

2 : to form loose, thin pieces that fall off • The old fence was falling apart, and its paint was *flaking* (off).

flak jacket *noun*, *pl* ~ **-ets** [*count*] : a special jacket that is worn by soldiers, police officers, etc., for protection against flak or bullets — called also *flak vest*

flaky /'fleɪki/ *adj* **flak-i-er**; **-est**

1 : tending to form or break apart into thin pieces • pie with a crisp, *flaky* crust : consisting of flakes • *flaky* snow

2 chiefly US, informal : unusual or strange • a *flaky* idea • He's a nice guy but he's a little *flaky*.

— **flak-i-ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

flam-bé /fləm'beɪ/ *verb* **-bés**; **-béed**; **-bé-ing** [+ *obj*] : to pour an alcoholic liquid on (a food) and light it so that flames are produced • The crepes were *flambéed* with brandy.

— **flambé** *adj* — used after a noun • trout *flambé*

flam-boy-ant /fləm'bojənt/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : having a very noticeable quality that attracts a lot of attention • a *flamboyant* performer • the *flamboyant* gestures of the conductor • wearing *flamboyant* clothes • *flamboyant* colors

— **flam-boy-ance** /fləm'bojəns/ *noun* [*noncount*] • youthful *flamboyance* • the *flamboyance* of her clothes — **flam-boy-ant-ly** *adv* • *flamboyantly* dressed

¹flame /'fleɪm/ *noun*, *pl* **flames**

1 [*count*] : the hot, glowing gas that can be seen when a fire is burning • the *flame* of a candle • We built a fire and roasted marshmallows over the *flames*. • They tried to put out the fire, but the *flames* grew higher.

2 : a state of burning brightly [*count*] The engine suddenly *burst/exploded into flames*. [=the engine suddenly began burning] • The entire building was *in flames*. [=was on fire; was burning] • The curtains caught on fire and the cabin *went up in flames*. [=was destroyed by fire] [*noncount*] The engine *burst/exploded into flame*.

3 [*count*] : strongly felt emotion — usually plural • the *flames* of passion

4 [*count*] informal : a person you have a romantic relationship with : SWEETHEART • She refuses to answer questions about her current *flame*. • He's an old *flame* from her high-school days. • a former *flame*

5 [*count*] : an angry or insulting e-mail message

fan the flames see ²FAN

²flame *verb* **flames**; **flamed**; **flam-ing**

1 [*no obj*] : to burn with a flame : to produce a flame • A fire *flamed* in the oven. — often + *up* • The overheated pan *flamed up* suddenly.

2 [*no obj*] literary : to feel or express strong or angry emotion • He *flamed* with indignation.

3 [*no obj*] literary : to shine brightly : GLOW • The sun *flamed* through the clouds. • color *flaming* in her cheeks

4 [+ *obj*] : to send an angry or insulting e-mail message to (someone) • He got/was *flamed* for expressing a controversial political opinion on the Internet.

flame out [*phrasal verb*] **1** of a jet engine : to stop working suddenly • The plane nearly crashed when one of its engines *flamed out* shortly after takeoff. **2** US, informal : to fail or end in a very sudden way • His career *flamed out* after the failure of his last movie. — see also FLAMEOUT

fla-men-co /flə'menkou/ *noun* [*count*, *noncount*] : a fast and lively Spanish dance; also : music that is played for this type of dance

flame-out /'fleɪm,aut/ *noun*, *pl* **-outs** [*count*]

1 : a sudden stopping of a jet engine

2 US, informal : a very sudden and complete failure • Fans were disappointed by the team's *flameout* in the play-offs.

— see also *flame out* at ²FLAME

flame-proof /'fleɪm,pru:f/ *adj* : not easily damaged by flames : FIREPROOF • *flameproof* clothing

flame-throw-er /'fleɪm,θrowə/ *noun*, *pl* **-ers** [*count*]

1 : a weapon that shoots a stream of burning liquid

2 baseball, informal : a pitcher who throws the ball very fast : a fastball pitcher

flam-ing /'fleɪmɪŋ/ *adj*

1 : having a bright or glowing red or orange color • the *flaming* sunset sky • *flaming* red hair

2 : burning with bright flames • a *flaming* torch

3 : very intense or strongly felt • *flaming* passion

4 informal — used to make an angry or critical statement more forceful • They're a couple of *flaming* idiots.

fla-min-go /flə'mɪŋɡou/ *noun*, *pl* **-gos** also **-goes** [*count*] : a large tropical bird that has pink or red wings and a very long neck and legs — see color picture on page C9

flam-ma-ble /'flæməbəl/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : capable of

being set on fire and of burning quickly • a *flammable* liquid • a highly *flammable* fabric

— **flam-ma-bil-i-ty** /,flæmə'bɪləti/ *noun* [*noncount*]

flan /'flæn/ *noun*, *pl* **flans** [*count*, *noncount*]

1 chiefly US : a type of sweet dessert made of a smooth, thick custard covered with caramel

2 : an open pie containing any of various fillings • a mushroom *flan*

flange /'flændʒ/ *noun*, *pl* **flang-es** [*count*] : an edge that sticks out from something (such as a wheel) and is used for strength, for guiding, or for attachment to another object

— **flanged** /'flændʒd/ *adj* • a *flanged* wheel

¹flank /'flæŋk/ *noun*, *pl* **flanks** [*count*]

1 : the area on the side of an animal (such as a horse) between the ribs and the hip • She gently patted the horse's *flank*. — see picture at HORSE

2 : the right or left side of a military formation • They attacked the enemy on both *flanks*.

3 : the side of something • the eastern *flank* of a volcano

²flank *verb* **flanks**; **flanked**; **flank-ing** [+ *obj*] : to be located on both sides of (something or someone) • Guards *flanked* the entrance. — usually used as (*be*) *flanked* • The bed was *flanked* by two small tables. • a celebrity *flanked* by muscular bodyguards — see also OUTFLANK

flank-er /'flæŋkə/ *noun*, *pl* **-ers** [*count*] American football : a player on the offensive team whose position is toward the side and behind the line of scrimmage

flan-nel /'flæn/ *noun*

1 [*noncount*] : a soft cloth made of wool or cotton • shirts made of bright-colored *flannel* — often used before another noun • a *flannel* shirt • a *flannel* suit • *flannel* pajamas

2 *flannels* [*plural*] : pants made of flannel • He wore a dark blazer and gray *flannels*.

3 [*count*] Brit : WASHCLOTH

4 [*noncount*] Brit, informal : foolish or meaningless words • Cut out all that *flannel* and tell us what really happened!

flan-nel-ette /,flænə'let/ *noun* [*noncount*] Brit : a light and soft cotton cloth

¹flap /'flæp/ *noun*, *pl* **flaps** [*count*]

1 : a flat piece of material that is attached to something on one side and that can be easily moved • She opened the tent *flap* and crawled outside. • the inside *flap* of a book's cover • a loose *flap* of skin

2 : the movement or sound of something that is moving up and down or back and forth • the soft *flap* [=flapping] of the flag in the breeze • the steady *flap* [=beat] of the bird's wings

3 informal **a** : a state or situation in which many people are excited or upset • He was widely criticized during the recent *flap* [=uproar] about his controversial new book. **b** chiefly Brit : a state in which someone is very upset • He got *in a flap* [=he became upset] over the delays in the schedule.

4 : a movable part of an airplane wing that can be raised or lowered and that is used to increase lift

²flap *verb* **flaps**; **flapped**; **flap-ping** : to move (something) up and down or back and forth [+ *obj*] birds *flapping* their wings • The breeze *flapped* the sails. [*no obj*] The flag *flapped* in the breeze. • The bird's wings were *flapping*.

flap-doo-dle /'flæp,du:dl/ *noun* [*noncount*] chiefly US, informal : foolish words : NONSENSE • The speech was a lot of *flapdoodle* about the economy.

flap-jack /'flæp,dʒæk/ *noun*, *pl* **-jacks** [*count*]

1 US : PANCAKE

2 Brit : a thick, sweet cake made of oatmeal usually with molasses or honey

flap-per /'flæpə/ *noun*, *pl* **-pers** [*count*] : a young woman in the 1920s who dressed and behaved in a way that was considered very modern

¹flare /'fleə/ *verb* **flares**; **flared**; **flar-ing**

1 [*no obj*] : to shine or burn suddenly and briefly • A match *flared* (up) in the darkness.

2 [*no obj*] : to become suddenly excited, angry, or active • *Tempers flared* [=people became angry] during the debate. — often + *up* • The fighting *flared up* again after a two-week lull. • She *flared up* [=became very angry] at her brother. • Her asthma has *flared up* again. [=her asthma has become suddenly active or worse again]

3 : to open or spread outward [*no obj*] pants that *flare* at the bottom • the bull's *flaring* nostrils — often + *out* • The skirt *flares out* at the knee. [+ *obj*] The bull *flared* its nostrils.

²flare *noun*, *pl* **flares**

1 [*count*] : a light that shines brightly and briefly • the sudden *flare* of the match

2 [count] : a very bright light that is used to give a signal, to light up something, or to attract attention • When the crew saw *flares*, they knew the other ship was in trouble.; also : a device that produces such a light

3 [count] : a sudden expression of anger : FLARE-UP • a *flare* of temper

4 [count] : a shape or part that spreads outward • the *flare* at the bottom of the vase

5 *flares* [plural] : pants with legs that become wider at the bottom : BELL-BOTTOMS

flare-up /'fleəʌp/ noun, pl -ups [count]

1 : a sudden occurrence of flame • The fire is smoldering and there is still a danger of *flare-ups*.

2 : a sudden occurrence or expression of anger • a *flare-up* of temper during the debate • a moody teenager prone to emotional *flare-ups*

3 : an occurrence in which something (such as violence or a disease) suddenly begins or becomes worse • She had another *flare-up* of her asthma. • There has been a *flare-up* of violence along the border.

1 **flash** /'flæʃ/ verb flash-es; flashed; flash-ing

1 : to shine or give off bright light suddenly or in repeated bursts [no obj] Thunder rumbled and lightning *flashed*. • Cameras *flashed* as the celebrities passed. • A car was sitting on the side of the road with its lights *flashing*. [+ obj] She *flashed* her car's headlights (at us) and honked her horn.

2 **a** : to appear quickly or suddenly [no obj] A message *flashed* on the screen. [+ obj] The screen *flashed* a message in black letters. **b** [no obj] : to move or pass very quickly • A car *flashed* by. • An idea *flashed* into/through his mind. [=he suddenly had an idea]

3 [no obj] of the eyes : to show strong emotion • Her eyes *flashed* with anger.

4 [+ obj] : to show (something) briefly • The mugger *flashed* a knife and demanded their wallets. • The officer *flashed* his badge. • She *flashed* a shy smile.

5 informal : to show your sexual organs to (someone) suddenly and briefly in public [+ obj] A strange man *flashed* her on the subway. [no obj] He was arrested for *flashing*. — see also FLASHER

2 **flash** noun, pl flashes

1 [count] : a sudden bright light • A brilliant/blinding *flash* lit up the sky. • a *flash* of lightning = a lightning *flash*

2 [count] : a sudden appearance or occurrence of something • a *flash* of insight • a *flash* of color • a *flash* of wit • a *flash* of anger • The idea for the movie came to her in a *flash* of inspiration. — see also HOT FLASH

3 [noncount] usually disapproving : a fancy or exciting quality or appearance that is meant to attract attention to something that is usually not very good or interesting • They relied on gimmicks and *flash* to get people's attention. • a show with a lot of *flash* but little substance

4 : a device that is used to produce a brief and very bright flash of light for taking photographs [count] a camera with a *flash* • Use the *flash* when you're taking pictures indoors. [noncount] a picture taken using *flash* • *flash* photography [=photography that is done with a flash] — see picture at CAMERA; compare FLASHBULB

5 [count] : NEWSFLASH

(as) quick as a flash informal : very quickly • The waitress brought our order as quick as a *flash*.

flash in the pan : a person or thing that fails after being very popular or successful for a brief time • He was a *flash in the pan* whose second album didn't sell very well.

in a flash informal : very quickly or suddenly • I'll be back in a *flash*. • The idea came to me in a *flash*.

3 **flash** adj

1 always used before a noun : beginning suddenly and lasting only a short time • a *flash* fire • a *flash* flood [=a sudden flood that is caused by heavy rain and that lasts a short time]

2 always used before a noun, US, informal : very talented • a *flash* athlete

3 [more ~; most ~] Brit, informal + disapproving : FLASHY, SHOWY • a *flash* car

flash-back /'flæʃ,bæk/ noun, pl -backs

1 : a part of a story or movie that describes or shows something that happened in the past [count] The character's childhood was described in a series of *flashbacks*. [non-count] events shown in *flashback*

2 [count] : a strong memory of a past event that comes suddenly into a person's mind • He's having *flashbacks* of/to his days in the war.

flash-bulb /'flæʃ,bʌlb/ noun, pl -bulbs [count] : an electric bulb that produces a very bright flash of light for taking photographs — compare ²FLASH 5

flash card noun, pl ~ cards [count] : a card that has words, numbers, or pictures on it and that is used to help students learn about a subject

flash-er /'flæʃə/ noun, pl -ers [count]

1 : a light that shines briefly and repeatedly : • emergency *flashers* • We noticed a car at the side of the road with its *flashers* on.

2 informal : a man who shows his sexual organs in public

flash-light /'flæʃ,lait/ noun, pl

-lights [count] US : a small electric light that can be carried in your hand and that runs on batteries — called also (Brit) torch

flash point noun, pl ~ points

[count] : a point, place, or situation in which sudden anger or violence could happen • The city became a *flash point* as political tensions grew. • The situation reached a *flash point* when union leaders urged the workers to protest.

flashy /'flæʃi/ adj flash-i-er; -est

usually disapproving : bright or fancy

in a way that is meant to attract attention : GAUDY • rich young men who drive *flashy* cars • *flashy* glamour • *flashy* colors/clothes • a *flashy* dresser • *flashy* ads

— flash-i-ly /'flæʃəli/ adv • *flashily* dressed — flash-i-ness /'flæʃinəs/ noun [noncount]

flask /'flæsk, Brit 'flɑːsk/ noun, pl flasks [count]

1 : a container that is shaped like a flattened bottle and that is used to carry alcohol • a *flask* of whiskey — called also hip flask

2 : a glass bottle used in scientific laboratories

3 Brit : THERMOS

1 **flat** /'flæt/ adj flat-ter; flat-test

1 : having a smooth, level, or even surface : not having curves or bumps • *flat* ground • the *flat* top of the table • the *flat* landscape of the prairie • a *flat* stomach • a *flat* wall

2 : having a wide, smooth surface and little thickness • Coins are usually round and *flat*. • small, *flat* computer disks • a *flat* piece of wood

3 of a shoe heel : very low and wide • *flat* heels; also, of a shoe : having a flat heel or no heel • wearing *flat* shoes

4 : spread out on or along a surface • The soldiers were lying *flat* on the ground. • He was (lying) *flat* on his back.

5 : very clear and definite : ABSOLUTE • a *flat* refusal • His comments were a *flat* contradiction of his sister's statement.

✧ In British English the expression *and that's flat!* is used to stress that a statement or decision is definite and will not be changed. • I'm not going to do it *and that's flat!* [=and that's that]

6 **a** : not changing in amount • They charged a *flat* rate for their services. • a *flat* [=fixed] fee • Ticket sales have been/ remained *flat*. [=have not increased or decreased] • *flat* profits • a *flat* tax [=a tax that is paid at the same rate by everyone] **b** : not having much business activity • The market is very *flat* for this time of year.

7 : not having much interest or energy : DULL • *flat* writing • a *flat* performance • He spoke in a *flat*, tired voice.

8 of a drink : no longer having bubbles • This beer is *flat*. = This beer has gone *flat*. • *flat* ginger ale • *flat* champagne

9 of a tire : not having enough air • I got a *flat* tire from a nail in the street. • The tire was (slightly) *flat*.

10 music **a** : lower than the true pitch • Her singing was slightly *flat*. **b** : lower than a specified note by a semitone • B *flat* [=a note that is a semitone lower than B] — compare ¹NATURAL 8, ¹SHARP 13

11 of lighting conditions : not producing strong shadows • a portrait taken in *flat* lighting

12 : not shiny • *flat* paint

13 Brit, of a battery : no longer producing electricity : DEAD • The battery has gone *flat*. [= (US) the battery is dead; the battery has died]

(as) flat as a pancake informal : very flat • The land there is as *flat* as a pancake. • The tire was *flat* as a pancake.

— flat-ly adv • He *flatly* refuses to talk about it. • Lay the map *flatly* on the desk. • She has *flatly* denied the accusations.

— flat-ness noun [noncount]

2 **flat** noun, pl flats [count]



flashlight

1 : a level area of land — usually plural • salt flats • tidal flats
2 : a flat part or surface • the flat of your hand • the flat of a sword

3 a : a musical note that is one semitone lower than a specified note • B flat **b** : a written symbol *b* that is placed before a note to show that it should be played a semitone lower — compare ²NATURAL, ³SHARP

4 US : a shallow box in which young plants are grown

5 chiefly US : a shoe or slipper that has a flat heel or no heel — usually plural • She wore a casual dress and flats to the show.

6 chiefly Brit : an apartment typically on one floor • They moved out of their old flat. — compare APARTMENT

7 : a tire that does not have enough air • I drove over a nail and got a flat. • fix a flat

³flat adv

1 a : on or against a flat surface • Lay the map flat on the desk. **b** : in the position of someone or something that is lying spread out on the ground or another surface • He slipped and landed/fell flat on his back/face.

2 : exactly or precisely — used to describe something that happens quickly • He got there in two minutes flat. • in 10 seconds flat • She finished her homework in nothing flat. [=in no time at all; very quickly]

3 informal : completely or absolutely • We asked for more time but they turned us down flat. • (US) If you ask me, what they're doing is flat wrong. • I'm flat broke. [=I have no money] — see also FLAT OUT

4 : below the correct musical pitch • He sang slightly flat. — compare ²SHARP 2

fall flat see ¹FAIL

1 flat-bed /'flæt,bed/ *adj*, always used before a noun : having a flat surface on which work is placed • a flatbed scanner • a flatbed printing press

2 flatbed *noun*, *pl -beds* [count] chiefly US : a truck or trailer that has a body which is shaped like a platform or shallow box

flat-car /'flæt,kɑː/ *noun*, *pl -cars* [count] chiefly US : a railroad car without sides or a roof that is used for carrying goods

flat-fish /'flæt,fɪʃ/ *noun*, *pl -fish* [count] : a fish (such as a halibut, flounder, or sole) that has a flat body and swims on its side with both eyes on the upper side

flat foot *noun* [count]

1 pl ~ feet : a foot that is flat on the bottom so the entire sole rests upon the ground — usually plural • He has flat feet.

2 usually flat-foot /'flæt,fut/ *pl -foots* US slang, old-fashioned : POLICE OFFICER

flat-footed /'flæt,fʊtəd/ *adj*

1 a : having flat feet • a flat-footed man **b** : walking or moving in a slow and awkward way • a clumsy, flat-footed new recruit

2 chiefly US, informal : not ready or prepared — usually used in the phrase catch flat-footed • The surprise announcement of his candidacy caught his opponents flat-footed. [=his opponents were not prepared for his announcement]

flat-mate /'flæt,meɪt/ *noun*, *pl -mates* [count] chiefly Brit : a person who shares a flat (sense 6) with someone : ROOM-MATE

flat out *adv*, *informal*

1 chiefly US : in a very clear and direct way • I told him flat out that I have no intention of marrying him. • We asked for more time but they refused us flat out.

2 : at the fastest possible speed • The car does 180 mph flat out. • We've been working flat out. [=as hard as possible] • He was running flat out. [=as fast as possible]

3 usually flat-out US, *informal* — used to make a statement more forceful • This class is just flat-out confusing. • The movie was flat-out lousy. • She flat-out [=completely] missed the target.

flat-out /'flæt,aʊt/ *adj*, always used before a noun, *informal*

1 chiefly US : absolute and complete • It was a flat-out lie. • a flat-out refusal

2 : greatest possible : MAXIMUM • a flat-out effort

flat-panel /'flæt'pæn/ *adj*, always used before a noun : FLAT-SCREEN • a computer with a flat-panel display • a flat-panel monitor • flat-panel TVs

flat-screen /'flæt,skri:n/ *adj*, always used before a noun — used to describe a television, computer monitor, etc., that has a thin and flat screen • We bought a new flat-screen TV.

flat-ten /'flætɪn/ *verb -tens; -tened; -ten-ing*

1 a [+ *obj*] : to make (something) flat or flatter • He opened

the map and flattened it (out) against the tabletop. • He flattened himself against the wall. [=he pressed himself against the wall so that he was as close to it as possible] **b** [no *obj*] : to become flat or flatter • The dough flattened smoothly/easily. • The land flattens (out) as you approach the coast.

2 [+ *obj*] **a** : to knock down (something or someone) • Dozens of houses were flattened by the tornado. • The boxer was flattened in the seventh round. **b informal** : to defeat (a competitor) easily or completely • The team got flattened in the first round of the play-offs.

3 [no *obj*] : to go to and stay at a lower level • Prices are expected to flatten after the holiday shopping season. — often + *out* • Student performance flattened out after the second month of the school year.

flat-ter /'flætə/ *verb -ters; -tered; -ter-ing* [+ *obj*]

1 : to praise (someone) in a way that is not sincere • He flattered her with comments about her youthful appearance. • His comments flattered her. • You're just flattering me.

2 : to cause (someone) to feel pleased by showing respect, affection, or admiration • It flattered her to be asked to sing at their wedding. — usually used as (be) flattered • She was flattered when they asked her to sing. • I'm flattered that he asked me out, but he isn't my type.

3 a : to show or describe (someone or something) in a way that is very favorable or too favorable • That portrait flatters him. [=that portrait makes him look better than he really does] **b** : to cause (someone or something) to look as attractive as possible • That dress really flatters your figure.

flatter yourself : to believe something about yourself that makes you feel pleased or proud • Don't flatter yourself—you don't sing any better than we do. • I flatter myself on my skill in dancing. = I flatter myself that I'm a good dancer.

— **flat-ter-er** /'flætəɹə/ *noun*, *pl -ers* [count] • an insincere flatterer — **flattering** *adj* [more ~; most ~] • She wasn't fooled by his flattering comments. • a very flattering portrait • a flattering dress — **flat-ter-ing-ly** /'flætərɪŋli/ *adv* • a flatteringly favorable portrait

flat-tery /'flætəri/ *noun* [noncount] : praise that is not sincere • He tried to win his teacher's favor with flattery. • Flattery will get you nowhere. [=you will not succeed by flattering me]

flat-top /'flæt,tɑ:p/ *noun*, *pl -tops* [count]

1 US : AIRCRAFT CARRIER

2 : a haircut in which the hair is very short on the sides and flat and evenly cut on top

flat-u-lence /'flætʃələns, Brit 'flætjələns/ *noun* [noncount] : the presence of too much gas or air in the stomach or intestines • symptoms include nausea, flatulence, and cramps

— **flat-u-lent** /'flætʃələnt, Brit 'flætjələnt/ *adj* [more ~; most ~]

flat-ware /'flæt,weə/ *noun* [noncount] US : forks, spoons, and knives used for serving and eating food : SILVERWARE

flaunt /'flɑ:nt/ *verb flaunts; flaunt-ed; flaunt-ing* [+ *obj*]

1 : to show (something) in a very open way so that other people will notice • She liked to flaunt her wealth by wearing furs and jewelry. • Their motto seems to be, "If you've got it, flaunt it!" [=you should not be afraid to show your good features and talents]

2 : to show a lack of respect for (something, such as a rule) : FLOUT • They openly flaunted the rules.

usage The use of *flaunt* to mean "flout" is common, but it is considered by many people to be incorrect.

flau-tist /'flɑ:tɪst/ *noun*, *pl -tists* [count] : a person who plays a flute : FLUTIST

1 fla-vor (US) or **Brit fla-vour** /'fleɪvə/ *noun*, *pl -vors*

1 a : the quality of something that you can taste [count] This dish has an unusual flavor. • the hot, spicy flavors of Mexican food [noncount] a dish with unusual flavor **b** [count] : a particular type of taste • They sell 20 different flavors of ice cream. • Grape is my favorite bubble gum flavor. **c** [noncount] : a good or appealing taste • The dish lacks flavor. • The stew is full of flavor.

2 chiefly US : a substance that is added to food or drink to give it a desired taste : FLAVORING [count] artificial flavors [noncount] She added vanilla flavor to the custard.

3 a [count] : a particular quality that something has • I like the Italian flavor of the neighborhood. • The film has an avant-garde flavor. **b** [noncount] : an appealing quality • Her performance adds flavor to the show.

4 [count] *informal* : a type or version of something • different

flavors of software ✧ The *flavor of the month* is someone or something that is popular and gets a lot of attention for a brief time. • Education reform seems to have become the *flavor of the month* among politicians.

– **fla-vor-ful** (US) or *Brit fla-vour-ful* /'fleɪvəfəl/ *adj* [more ~; most ~] • food that is *flavorful* as well as nutritious • *flavorful* recipes – **fla-vor-less** (US) or *Brit fla-vour-less* /'fleɪvələs/ *adj* • *flavorless* food – **fla-vor-some** (US) or *Brit fla-vour-some* /'fleɪvəsəm/ *adj* [more ~; most ~] • *flavorsome* [=flavorful] recipes

²**flavor** (US) or *Brit flavour* *verb* -vors; -vored; -vor-ing [+ *obj*] : to give or add flavor to (something) • We *flavored* the cookies with cinnamon. • I *flavored* the salad with herbs.

– **flavored** (US) or *Brit fla-voured* *adj* • *flavored* coffee • cherry-flavored candies

fla-vor-ing (US) or *Brit fla-vour-ing* /'fleɪvərɪŋ/ *noun*, *pl* -ings : a substance that is added to a food or drink to give it a desired taste [count] We used ginger and other natural *flavorings*. • add more *flavorings* [noncount] add more *flavoring*

flaw /'flɑː/ *noun*, *pl* **flaws** [count]

1 : a small physical problem (such as a crack) that makes something less valuable : DEFECT • There was a *flaw* in the vase. • He inspected the fabric for *flaws*.

2 : a small fault or weakness • Several critics pointed out the *flaws* in the book's plot. • Vanity was the one *flaw* in his character. • There are a few *flaws* in your argument.

– **flaw-less** /'flɑːləs/ *adj* • an attractive woman with *flawless* skin • a *flawless* [=perfect] performance – **flaw-less-ly** *adv* • She performed *flawlessly*. – **flaw-less-ness** *noun* [noncount]

flawed /'flɑːd/ *adj* [more ~; most ~] : having a mistake, fault, or weakness • a *flawed* but decent man • fatally/badly *flawed* reasoning • a *flawed* but powerful performance

flax /'flæks/ *noun* [noncount]

1 : a plant that has blue flowers and that is grown for its fiber and its seed ✧ The fiber of flax is used to make linen and the seed is used to make linseed oil.

2 : the fiber of the flax plant

flax-en /'flæksən/ *adj*, *literary* : having a pale yellow color • *flaxen* hair

flay /'fleɪ/ *verb* **flays**; **flayed**; **flay-ing** [+ *obj*] : to beat or whip (someone or something) in a very violent and severe way — usually used figuratively • He was *flayed* [=severely criticized] by the media for his thoughtless comments.

flea /'fliː/ *noun*, *pl* **fleas** [count] : a very small insect that lives on animals and that has strong legs used for jumping • The dog has *fleas*. • a *flea* bite

fit as a flea see ¹FIT

flea-bag /'fliːbæg/ *noun*, *pl* -bags [count] US, *informal* : a cheap and dirty hotel — usually used before another noun • a *fleabag* hotel

flea collar *noun*, *pl* ~ -lars [count] : a collar for dogs and cats that contains a substance which kills fleas

flea market *noun*, *pl* ~ -kets [count] : a usually outdoor market in which old and used goods are sold

¹**fleck** /'flek/ *noun*, *pl* **flecks** [count] : a small spot or mark • a brown cloth with *flecks* of yellow • The police found *flecks* of blood on his clothes.

²**fleck** *verb* **flecks**; **flecked**; **flecking** [+ *obj*] : to put a small spots or marks of something on different parts of (a surface) • She *flecked* the canvas with blue paint. — usually used as (be) *flecked* • a brown beard *flecked* with gray [=a brown beard that has many small areas or spots of gray] • snow *flecked* with mud = mud-flecked snow

fled *past tense and past participle of FLEE*

fledge /'fledʒ/ *verb* **fledg-es**; **fledged**; **fledg-ing** [no *obj*] *of a bird* : to develop the feathers necessary for flying • The young birds haven't yet *fledged*.

fledg-ling /'fledʒlɪŋ/ *noun*, *pl* -lings [count]

1 : a young bird that has just become able to fly • a female bird feeding her *fledglings* • a *fledgling* robin

2 : someone or something that is getting started in a new activity — usually used before another noun • a *fledgling* company with only four employees • a *fledgling* novelist

flee /'fliː/ *verb* **flees**; **fled** /'fled/; **flee-ing**

1 [no *obj*] : to run away from danger • They *fled* for their lives. [=they fled to save their lives] • The family *fled* from Nazi Germany to Britain in 1936.

2 [+ *obj*] : to run away from (a place) • He was accused of trying to *flee* the scene of the accident. • Many people *fled* the

city to escape the fighting. • He was forced to *flee* the country.

¹**fleece** /'fliːs/ *noun*, *pl* **fleec-es**

1 [count] : the woolly coat of a sheep

2 a [noncount] : a soft cloth that is used to make warm clothes • warm *fleece* jackets b [count] *chiefly Brit* : a jacket made from this cloth

– **fleecy** /'fliːsi/ *adj* **fleec-i-er**; -est • *fleecy* white clouds • soft, *fleecy* fabric

²**fleece** *verb* **fleeces**; **fleeced**; **fleec-ing** [+ *obj*] *informal* : to deceive and take money from (someone) : CHEAT • Don't let that salesman *fleece* you. • an unsuspecting tourist *fleeced* by a scam artist

¹**fleet** /'fliːt/ *noun*, *pl* **fleets** [count]

1 a : a group of military ships that are controlled by one leader • He was the commander of the Pacific *fleet*. b : all of a country's military ships • the British *fleet*

2 : a group of ships or vehicles that move or work together or that are controlled or owned by one company • a fishing *fleet* • The company has a large *fleet* of delivery trucks. • a *fleet* of taxis

²**fleet** *adj* **fleet-er**; -est *literary* : very fast • a *fleet* runner • She is *very fleet of foot*. [=she is able to run very fast]

– **fleet-ly** *adv* • running *fleety* – **fleet-ness** *noun* [noncount] • *fleetness* of foot

fleet-foot-ed /'fliːt,fʊtəd/ *adj* [more ~; most ~] : able to run fast • a *fleet-footed* runner

fleet-ing /'fliːtɪŋ/ *adj* [more ~; most ~] : not lasting : lasting for only a short time • autumn's *fleeting* beauty • I caught a *fleeting* glimpse of the comet. • Her fame was *fleeting*.

Fleet Street /'fliːt-/ *noun* [singular] — used as a name for London newspapers and journalists • *Fleet Street* is speculating about his political future following the scandal. ✧ The term *Fleet Street* comes from the name of a street in London where many newspapers were once located.

Flem-ish /'flemɪʃ/ *noun* [noncount] : the Germanic language that is spoken by people in northern Belgium and that is now officially called Dutch

– **Flemish** *adj*

¹**flesh** /'flesh/ *noun* [noncount]

1 : the soft parts of the body of an animal or person • the flabby white *flesh* of his belly

2 : the skin of a person • a disease that causes sores on the *flesh* • sun-tanned *flesh* • *flesh-colored* [=having the color of a white person's skin] • The memory of all that blood was enough to *make my flesh crawl/creep*. [=to make me feel disgusted, afraid, etc.]

3 : parts of an animal used as food : MEAT • cooked rabbit *flesh* • *flesh-eating* mammals

4 : the soft part of a fruit that is eaten • the soft, sweet *flesh* of a peach

5 : the physical nature of a person rather than the mind or spirit • pleasures of the *flesh* [=physical pleasures, such as eating, drinking, and having sex] • sins of the *flesh* • “The spirit indeed is willing, but the *flesh* is weak.” —Matthew 26:41 (KJV) — see also *the spirit is willing but the flesh is weak* at ¹SPIRIT

a thorn in the/your flesh see THORN

flesh and blood 1 : a human being — often used when talking about human weakness • There's a limit to what I can do—I'm only *flesh and blood*. • It was more than *flesh and blood* can bear. 2 : someone who is closely related to you : a person in your family — usually used in the phrase *your own flesh and blood* • How could you do something so cruel to *your own flesh and blood*?

go the way of all flesh *literary* : to die

in the flesh ✧ If you see someone *in the flesh* you see that person directly rather than in a picture, on television, etc. • I saw him *in the flesh* just three days ago. • She was excited to see the President *in the flesh*.

pound of flesh see ¹POUND

press the flesh see ²PRESS

²**flesh** *verb* **flesh-es**; **fleshed**; **flesh-ing**

flesh out [phrasal verb] **flesh** (something) out or **flesh out** (something) : to provide more information about (something) : to make (something) more complete by adding details • You need to *flesh out* your plan with more details. • She *fleshes out* the characters in her novels very well.

flesh-pot /'flesh,pɔːt/ *noun*, *pl* -pots [count] *informal* + *humorous* : a place where people are entertained in ways that relate to physical pleasures (such as drinking and sex) — usually plural • visiting the *fleshpots* of the city

flesh wound *noun*, *pl* ~ **wounds** [count] : a wound that injures the skin and flesh but does not go deep into the body

fleshy /'fleʃi/ *adj* **flesh·i·er; -est**

1 : having a large amount of flesh • a large, *fleshy* nose • the *fleshy* part of the thigh • a *fleshy* face • *fleshy* arms

2 : soft and thick • the *fleshy* texture of the melon • *fleshy* fruit • a plant with *fleshy* leaves

— **flesh·i·ness** *noun* [noncount]

flew *past tense of* ¹FLY

¹**flex** /'fleks/ *verb* **flex·es; flexed; flex·ing**

1 [+ *obj*] **a** : to bend (a body part) • *flexing* a leg • *flex* your fingers **b** : to move or tighten (a muscle) • He *flexed* the muscles of his right arm.

2 [no *obj*] : BEND • a material that *flexes* easily

flex your muscles : to show your strength or power • The election will give us a chance to *flex* our political muscles.

²**flex** *noun*, *pl* **flexes** [count] *Brit* : ¹CORD 2 • buy a new *flex* for the toaster

flex·i·ble /'fleksəbəl/ *adj* [more ~; most ~]

1 : capable of bending or being bent • *flexible* branches swaying in the breeze • a material that is both strong and *flexible* • She's been doing exercises to become stronger and more *flexible*.

2 **a** : easily changed • Our schedule for the weekend is very *flexible*. : able to change or to do different things • This computer program has to be *flexible* to meet all our needs. **b** : willing to change or to try different things • Whatever you want to do is fine with me. I'm *flexible*. — opposite INFLEXIBLE

— **flex·i·bil·i·ty** /,fleksə'bɪləti/ *noun* [noncount] • She's been exercising to improve her *flexibility*. • He shows remarkable *flexibility* as an actor. [=he can play a wide range of roles] — **flex·i·bly** /'fleksəbli/ *adv*

flex·time (US) /'fleks,taim/ or chiefly *Brit* **flexi·time** /'fleksi,taim/ *noun* [noncount] : a system in which employees are required to work a certain number of hours but are allowed to choose their own times for starting and finishing work

¹**flick** /'flik/ *noun*, *pl* **flicks** [count] : a short, quick movement • with a *flick* of his thumb • a *flick* of the wrist • She turned on the light with a *flick* [=flip] of a switch. — compare ³FLICK

²**flick** *verb* **flicks; flicked; flick·ing**

1 **a** : to move (something) with a short, quick movement [+ *obj*] *flick* a switch • The snake *flicked* its tongue in and out. • a cow *flicking* its tail back and forth • She *flicked* her hair back over her shoulder. [no *obj*] The snake's tongue *flicked* in and out. **b** [+ *obj*] : to cause (something) to fly through the air by making a quick movement with your hand, finger, or thumb • She *flicked* an ash into the ashtray. • He *flicked* his cigarette butt out the window.

2 [+ *obj*] : to turn (something) on or off with a switch • *flick* on the TV • *flick* off the lights

3 [+ *obj*] : to hit (someone or something) with a short quick movement • The boys were *flicking* each other with towels.

³**flick** *noun*, *pl* **flicks** [count] *informal* : MOVIE • the new action *flick* • a *skin flick* [=a movie featuring nude people] • (*Brit*) go to the *flicks* [=go to a movie theater; (US) go to the movies] — compare ¹FLICK

¹**flick·er** /'flikə/ *verb* **-ers; -ered; -er·ing** [no *obj*]

1 : to burn or glow in an unsteady way : to produce an unsteady light • A TV was *flickering* in the background. • The overhead light kept *flickering* off and on. • a *flickering* candle/flame

2 : to appear or pass briefly or quickly • Thoughts *flickered* through his mind. • A smile *flickered* across her face.

²**flicker** *noun*, *pl* **-ers** [count]

1 : a quick and unsteady movement of light • the *flicker* of candlelight

2 : a sudden quick movement • the *flicker* of an eyelash

3 : a very small amount of something : a slight hint or suggestion of something (such as an emotion or quality) • a *flicker* of interest • His writing doesn't show the faintest *flicker* of imagination or originality. • There was a faint *flicker* of a smile on her face. • a *flicker* of recognition/hope

flick-knife /'flik,naɪf/ *noun*, *pl* **-knives** [count] *Brit* : SWITCHBLADE

fli·er or fly·er /'flajə/ *noun*, *pl* **-ers** [count]

1 : a person or animal that flies • These birds are graceful *fliers*. • Charles Lindbergh was the first *flier* [=pilot] to fly solo across the Atlantic. • a fearful/nervous *flier* [=airplane passenger] • a *frequent flier* [=a person who flies often on a particular airline] ♦ The usual spelling of this sense in U.S. En-

glish is *flier*. The usual British spelling is *flyer*.

2 *usually flyer* : a piece of paper that has something printed on it (such as an advertisement or an announcement) and that is given to many people • They distributed *flyers* announcing the concert throughout the city.

take a flier *US, informal* : to do something that could have either good or bad results : to do something risky • He *took a flier* in politics soon after getting his degree. — often + on • Investors have been unwilling to *take a flier on* [=to invest money in] such a small and unproven company.

flight /'flaɪt/ *noun*, *pl* **flights**

1 [noncount] **a** : the act of flying : the act of moving through the air by the use of wings • the *flight* of a bee • a bird in *flight* [=a bird that is flying] **b** : the act of moving through the air or through outer space • the *flight* of a bullet/baseball • the *flight* of a rocket to the moon

2 [count, noncount] : the act of running away in order to escape from danger • the *flight* of refugees

3 [count] **a** : a journey on an airplane • an overnight *flight* • a transatlantic *flight* • a direct/nonstop *flight* **b** : the airplane that is making a journey • Our *flight* leaves at noon. • They boarded *Flight* 101.

4 [count] : a group of similar birds, airplanes, etc., that are flying through the air together • a *flight* of geese

5 [count] : a series of stairs going from one level or floor to another • Her apartment is five *flights* up. • He fell down a *flight* of stairs.

flight of fancy also flight of imagination/fantasy : an idea, story, etc., that shows great imagination but is very unlikely to be true or practical • The book is filled with *flights of fancy* about the future of the computer industry.

put (someone) to flight *formal + old-fashioned* : to cause (someone) to leave or run away • The rebels were *put to flight* by the advancing army.

take flight 1 : to leave or run away from danger • Fearing arrest, they *took flight* and hid in the mountains. 2 *US* : to begin flying • The bird *took flight* [=took wing] when we tried to approach it. 3 *US* : to begin a period of rapid activity, development, or growth • The idea really *took flight* [=took off] and soon it seemed everyone was copying it.

flight attendant *noun*, *pl* ~ **-dants** [count] : a person whose job is to help passengers who are traveling in an airplane — compare STEWARD, STEWARDESS

flight deck *noun*, *pl* ~ **decks** [count]

1 : the top deck of an aircraft carrier

2 : the area where the pilots sit in a large airplane • The captain spoke to the passengers from the *flight deck*. [=cockpit]

flight-less /'flaɪtləs/ *adj* : unable to fly • *flightless* birds

flight lieutenant *noun*, *pl* ~ **-nants** [count] : an officer in the British Air Force

flight path *noun*, *pl* ~ **paths** [count] : the route that an airplane, spaceship, etc., travels along through the air or space • No other planes were on their *flight path*. • a missile's *flight path*

flight plan *noun*, *pl* ~ **plans** [count] : a written statement that tells when and where an aircraft will fly • The pilot filed a *flight plan* before taking off.

flight recorder *noun*, *pl* ~ **-ers** [count] : a device on an aircraft that records information (such as airspeed and altitude) about a flight ♦ If an aircraft crashes, its flight recorder can be used to help find out what caused it to crash. — called also *flight data recorder*

flighty /'flaɪti/ *adj* **flight·i·er; -est** [also more ~; most ~]

1 : not serious or dependable : likely to forget things or to change opinions, plans, etc., without reason • an actress who specializes in playing silly, *flighty* women

2 : easily excited or frightened • *flighty* [=skittish] racehorses • *flighty* investors

— **flight·i·ness** /'flaɪtɪnəs/ *noun* [noncount]

¹**flim·flam** /'flɪm,flæm/ *noun* [noncount] *informal*

1 : dishonest behavior meant to take money or property from someone — usually used before another noun • He lost all his money to a *flimflam* artist/man. [=a criminal who steals money from people by tricking them; a con man]

2 : foolish or deceptive words : NONSENSE • The report is just a lot of corporate *flimflam*.

²**flimflam** *verb* **-flams; -flammed; -flamm·ing** [+ *obj*] *informal* : to trick (someone) in order to steal money • Investors now realize that they have been *flimflammed*. [=conned]

flim·sy /'flɪmzi/ *adj* **flim·si·er; -est** [also more ~; most ~]

1 : easily broken, torn, etc. : not strong or solid • a *flimsy* building • *flimsy* construction • a *flimsy* piece of material

2 : not likely to be true or to be believed • a *flimsy* [=weak] excuse • They have only the *flimsiest* of evidence against him.

• a movie with a *flimsy* plot

— **flim-si-ly** /'flɪmzəli/ *adv* [more ~; most ~] • *flimsily* [=weakly] constructed — **flim-si-ness** /'flɪmzɪnəs/ *noun* [noncount]

flinch /'flɪnʃ/ *verb* **flinch-es; flinched; flinch-ing** [no obj]

1 : to move suddenly because you are afraid of being hit or hurt • He *flinched* when I tapped him on the shoulder.

2 : to show fear : to hesitate from doing something unpleasant or dangerous • She met danger without *flinching*. • The bill was much higher than expected, but he paid it without *flinching*. — often + *at* or *from* • He didn't *flinch at* paying the bill. • She never *flinched from* danger.

— **flinch** *noun* [singular] • She met danger without a *flinch*.

¹fling /'flɪŋ/ *verb* **flings; flung** /'flʌŋ/; **fling-ing** [+ obj]

1 : to throw or push (something) in a sudden and forceful way • He *flung* his shoe across the room. • She *flung* the door open and stormed into the room. • *fling* open a window • They *flung* their hats into the air. — often used figuratively • They were *flinging* abuse at each other. [=they were angrily shouting insults at each other] • They *flung* him into prison. [=put him in prison] • The crowd was *flung* into confusion. [=the crowd suddenly became very confused]

2 : to forcefully move (yourself or a part of your body) in a specified way • She *flung* herself into his arms. • He *flung* his arms around her. • I *flung* back my head and laughed. • He leaned back and *flung* his leg over the arm of the chair. • She *flung* herself onto the couch.

fling caution to the wind see ¹CAUTION

fling yourself into : to begin doing or working on (something) with great energy and enthusiasm • He *flung himself into* (composing/performing) his music.

²fling *noun*, *pl* **flings** [count]

1 : a brief sexual relationship • She *had a fling* with her boss.

2 : a short period of time spent doing enjoyable and exciting things • They had time for one last *fling* before going back to school.

give (something) a fling or have a fling at (something) : to try something without being very serious about it or without worrying about whether or not you will succeed • He had always thought about starting his own business, and he decided to *give it a fling*. • He *had a brief fling at* starting his own business.

flint /'flɪnt/ *noun*, *pl* **flints**

1 a [noncount] : a hard type of rock that produces a small piece of burning material (called a spark) when it is hit by steel **b** [count] : a piece of flint

2 [count] : a piece of metal used for producing a spark • the *flint* in a cigarette lighter

flinty /'flɪnti/ *adj* **flint-i-er; -est** : not soft or gentle in manner or appearance : having a very serious quality or manner • a *flinty* and determined hero • *flinty* determination • *flinty* eyes • a *flinty-eyed* bureaucrat

— **flint-i-ness** *noun* [noncount]

¹flip /'flɪp/ *verb* **flips; flipped; flip-ping**

1 [+ obj] : to turn (something) over by throwing it up in the air with a quick movement • *flip* a coin

2 : to cause (something) to turn or turn over quickly [+ obj] She was sitting in the waiting room, *flipping* the pages of a magazine. • He *flipped* his car (over) on the interstate. • They *flipped* the turtle (over) onto its back. • *flip* a pancake • (informal) He got a job *flipping burgers* [=working as a cook in a fast-food restaurant] [no obj] His car *flipped* over on the interstate. • She was sitting in the waiting room, *flipping* [=leafing] through magazines.

3 [+ obj] **a** : to move (something) with a quick light movement : FLICK • *flip* a switch **b** : to turn (something) on or off with a switch • *flip on* the radio/TV

4 [+ obj] : to throw (something) with a quick movement • *Flip me the ball.* = *Flip the ball to me.*

5 [no obj] *informal* : to become very excited or angry • You'll *flip* when you hear this! • Take the trash out before your father *flips*. — see also FLIP OUT (below)

6 : to change or move through (channels, stations, etc.) quickly [+ obj] He *flipped* the channel back to the golf tournament. • I spent the afternoon *flipping* channels. [no obj] He kept *flipping* [=switching] to another channel.

flip open [phrasal verb] *flip open or flip open (something) or flip (something) open* : to open or to cause (something) to open with a quick movement • Her notebook *flipped open*. • She *flipped open* her notebook.

flip out [phrasal verb] *informal* : to become crazy or very excited or angry • I *flipped out* when I saw how they had changed my work. • She's going to *flip out* when she sees the great present I got her. — see also ¹FLIP 5 (above)

flip someone off or flip someone the bird *US slang* : to make an offensive gesture at someone by pointing the middle finger upward while keeping the other fingers folded down • angry drivers *flipping each other the bird* [=giving each other the bird/finger]

flip your lid also chiefly US flip your wig informal : to become crazy or very angry • His mother *flipped her lid* when she saw what a mess he'd made.

²flip *noun*, *pl* **flips** [count]

1 : the act of flipping something : a quick turn, toss, or movement • the *flip* of a coin • She turned on the lights with the *flip* of a switch.

2 : an athletic movement in which someone jumps in the air and rolls forward or backward : a somersault in the air • a back *flip*

³flip *adj* **flip-per; flip-pest** [or more ~; most ~] *informal* : not serious : FLIPPANT • a *flip* answer/attitude

flip chart *noun*, *pl* ~ **charts** [count] : a chart that consists of a series of large pieces of paper which are attached at the top and which are used to present information to an audience by turning over one piece of paper at a time

¹flip-flop /'flɪp,flɑ:p/ *noun*, *pl* **-flops** [count]

1 : a type of loose rubber sandal • She wore *flip-flops* to the beach. — see picture at SHOE

2 *chiefly US, informal* : a sudden change of opinion • a politician accused of doing *flip-flops* on important social issues

²flip-flop *verb* **-flops; -flopped; -flip-ping** [no obj] *chiefly US, informal* : to suddenly or frequently change your opinion • a politician accused of *flip-flopping* on social issues

flip-pant /'flɪpənt/ *adj* [more ~; most ~] : lacking proper respect or seriousness • He made/gave a *flippant* response to a serious question.

— **flip-pan-cy** /'flɪpənsi/ *noun* [noncount] • Many people were offended by the *flippancy* of his responses. — **flip-pant-ly** *adv* • He responded *flippantly*.

flip-per /'flɪpə/ *noun*, *pl* **-pers** [count]

1 : one of two flat body parts that stick out from the side of a seal, whale, etc., and are used by the animal for swimming

2 : a flat rubber shoe that has a very wide front and that is used for swimming — see picture at SCUBA DIVING

flip side *noun*, *pl* ~ **sides** [count]

1 : the side of a record that has a song which is not as popular and well known as the one on the other side • That song was on the *flip side* of their first single.

2 : the bad or unpleasant part or result of something • Loss of privacy is the *flip side* of fame.

the flip side of the coin see ¹COIN

¹flirt /'flɪt/ *verb* **flirts; flirt-ed; flirt-ing** [no obj]

1 : to behave in a way that shows a sexual attraction for someone but is not meant to be taken seriously • He likes to *flirt*. • They were *flirting* all night. — usually + *with* • He *flirts with* every attractive woman he meets. • He was *flirting with* her. • They were *flirting with* each other.

2 : to think about something or become involved in something in a way that is usually not very serious — + *with* • She's been *flirting* [=toying] with the idea of going back to school. • He *flirted with* communism when he was young.

3 : to come close to reaching or experiencing something — + *with* • The temperature *flirted with* [=approached] 100 yesterday. • They were *flirting with* [=risking] death/disaster. • The company has been *flirting with* bankruptcy. [=the company has been close to going bankrupt]

— **flir-ta-tion** /,flɪ'teɪʃən/ *noun*, *pl* **-tions** [count] • They had a brief *flirtation*. — often + *with* • He had a casual *flirtation with* her. • his youthful *flirtation with* communism

²flirt *noun*, *pl* **flirts** [count] : a person who enjoys flirting with other people : a flirtatious person • He admits that he's a terrible *flirt*. [=that he flirts a lot]

flir-ta-tious /,flɪ'teɪʃəs/ *adj* [more ~; most ~] : feeling or showing a sexual attraction for someone that is usually not meant to be taken seriously • feeling *flirtatious* • a *flirtatious* smile • a *flirtatious* mood

— **flir-ta-tious-ly** *adv* • smiling *flirtatiously* — **flir-ta-tious-ness** *noun* [noncount] • the *flirtatiousness* of her smile

¹flit /'flɪt/ *verb* **flits; flit-ted; flit-ting** [no obj] : to move or fly quickly from one place or thing to another • butterflies *flitting* around the garden • The hummingbird *flitted* from flower to flower. • She was always *flitting* around the kitchen. •

writers who *flit* [=bounce] from topic to topic

²**flit** *noun* — *do a moonlight flit* see ¹MOONLIGHT

¹**float** /'flaʊt/ *verb* floats; float-ed; float-ing

1 [*no obj*] **a** : to rest on top of a liquid • She was *floating* on her back. • ice *floating* in the river • Will this material sink or *float*? **b** : to be carried along by moving water or air • The raft *float*ed downstream. • dust *floating* through the air

2 [+ *obj*] **a** : to cause (something) to rest on top of a liquid : to cause (something) to float • The incoming tide will eventually *float* the ship off the reef. **b** : to cause or allow (something) to be carried or moved by moving water • They *float*ed the logs down the river.

3 [*no obj*] : to move or go in a gentle, graceful, or quiet way • She *float*ed gracefully across the stage. • His voice *float*ed to the back of the room. — sometimes used figuratively • She *float*ed off to sleep.

4 [*no obj*] : to live without having any serious purpose or goal • He *float*ed through life without ever settling down.

5 [+ *obj*] : to suggest (an idea, plan, etc.) for acceptance • Someone *float*ed this idea for a new book.

6 [+ *obj*] **US** : to make arrangements for (a loan) • They may have to *float* a loan to raise the money for renovations. • Could you *float* me a loan? [=could you lend money to me?]

7 [+ *obj*] **finance** : to sell (shares in a company) in the market • The company has announced plans to raise capital by *float*-ing a new issue of securities next month.

8 *of a government* : to allow the value of a currency when it is exchanged for other types of currency to change freely [+ *obj*] *float* a currency [*no obj*] allow a currency to *float* floating on air see ¹AIR

²**float** *noun, pl floats* [count]

1 : something that floats: such as **a** : a light object that is attached to a fishing line **b** : a floating platform near a shore for use by swimmers or boats **c** : a structure that holds up an airplane on water

2 : a vehicle with a platform used to carry an exhibit in a parade • We are building a *float* for the homecoming parade.

3 **US** : a soft drink with ice cream floating in it • a root beer *float*

4 **Brit** : an amount of money that is kept available for making change in a shop

— see also MILK FLOAT

floating *adj*

1 : continually moving or changing position • the *floating* population

2 : having no fixed value or rate • *floating* currencies • *float*-ing interest rates

3 **Brit** : not associated with a particular political party : not certain to vote for a particular candidate or party in an election • *floating* voters

¹**flock** /'flɑ:k/ *noun, pl flocks* [count]

1 : a group of birds or animals (such as sheep) • a *flock* of birds/sheep

2 : a large number of people • a *flock* of tourists

3 : the members of a church • a priest caring for his *flock*

²**flock** *verb* flocks; flocked; flock-ing [*no obj*] : to gather or move in a crowd • Thousands of people *flock*ed to the beach each weekend.

birds of a feather flock together see ¹FEATHER

floe /'fləʊ/ *noun, pl floes* [count] : a sheet or mass of floating ice : ICE FLOE

flog /'flɑ:g/ *verb* flogs; flogged; flog-ging [+ *obj*] : to beat or whip (someone) severely • The sailors were *flogged* for attempting a mutiny. — sometimes used figuratively • He is being *flogged* [=harshly criticized] in the press for his failure to take action.

flog a dead horse see ¹HORSE

— **flogging** /'flɑ:ɡɪŋ/ *noun, pl -gings* [noncount] *Flogging* was a common form of punishment in those days. [count] They gave him a good *flogging*. [=they beat/whipped him severely]

¹**flood** /'flʌd/ *noun, pl floods*

1 [count] : a large amount of water covering an area of land that is usually dry • A *flood* inundated the whole area. • the devastating *flood* of 1936 • The water has risen to *flood* level.

2 *the Flood* : a flood described in the Bible as covering the earth in the time of Noah

3 [*singular*] : a large amount of things that come or happen at the same time • We've received a *flood* of mail. • a *flood* of phone calls • a *flood* of criticism • a *flood* of tears • Seeing her again brought back a *flood* of memories.

in flood ♢ A river that is *in flood* has so much water in it

that it may flow over its banks and flood the land next to it. • After a week of rain, the river is *in (full) flood*. The phrase *in full flood* is sometimes used figuratively to describe the time when something is most active, successful, etc. • a political movement that was *in full flood* in the 1980s

²**flood** *verb* floods; flood-ed; flood-ing

1 **a** : to cover (land) with a flood [+ *obj*] Heavy rains *flood*ed the valley. [*no obj*] The rivers are close to *flooding*. **b** [*no obj*] : to become filled or covered by a flood • The valley *flood*ed after the heavy rains. • The plain *flood*s every spring.

2 [+ *obj*] **a** : to fill (something) completely • Light *flood*ed the room. • The room was *flood*ed with light. **b** : to cause (something) to receive or take in a large amount of things at the same time • The company plans to *flood* the market with this product. • The office has been *flood*ed with phone calls.

3 [*no obj*] : to go or come in large numbers or as a large amount • The phone calls have been *flood*ing in. • Refugees *flood*ed into the camp. • Light *flood*ed into the room. • Memories came *flood*ing into my mind.

4 : to cause too much fuel to go into (an engine) [+ *obj*] He wasn't able to start the car because he had *flood*ed the engine. [*no obj*] The car's engine *flood*ed.

flood-gate /'flʌd,ɡeɪt/ *noun, pl -gates* [count] : a gate for controlling the flow of water from a lake, river, reservoir, etc. — often used figuratively • Many people fear that the court's latest ruling will *open the floodgates* for/to a host of new lawsuits. [=will cause/allow a large number of new lawsuits] • Once the *floodgates* have *opened*, there will be no way to stop all the lawsuits.

flood-light /'flʌd,laɪt/ *noun, pl -lights* [count] : a light that shines brightly over a wide area • The yard was lit by *flood*-lights. — sometimes used figuratively • The company has been exposed to the *floodlight* of publicity.

— **flood-lit** /'flʌd,lɪt/ *adj* • a *floodlit* stadium

flood-plain /'flʌd,pleɪn/ *noun, pl -plains* [count]

1 : an area of low, flat land along a stream or river that may flood

2 : an area of land built up from soil left by floods

flood tide *noun, pl ~ tides* [count]

1 : a rising tide

2 : a very large amount of something • The company has been subjected to a *flood tide* [=flood] of criticism for its hiring policies.

flood-water /'flʌd,wɔ:tə/ *noun, pl -ters* [count] : the water of a flood — usually plural • The *floodwaters* have at last started to recede.

¹**floor** /'flɔ:/ *noun, pl floors*

1 [count] : the part of a room on which you stand • Keep your feet on the *floor*. • washing the kitchen *floor* • a marble/tile/hardwood *floor*

2 [count] **a** : the lower inside surface of something (such as a vehicle) • the *floor* of a car **b** : the area of ground at the bottom of something — usually singular • the ocean *floor* • the forest *floor*

3 [count] : a level in a building • She lives on the second *floor* of a five-story building. • His office is located on the fourth *floor*. — see also FIRST FLOOR, GROUND FLOOR

4 [count] : a large indoor space where people gather for some activity — usually singular • the *floor* of the convention/legislature • the factory *floor* • the dance *floor* • buying and selling shares on the *floor* of the exchange

5 [*singular*] : the people who are gathered in a place for a public meeting • He will now take questions from the *floor*.

6 [count] : a lower limit — usually singular • establishing a *floor* for wages and prices • The value of the stock has dropped/gone/fallen *through the floor*. [=to a very low level]

— opposite CEILING

have the floor : to have the right to speak at a public meeting • May I *have the floor*?

hold the floor : to be the person who is speaking at a public meeting • The senator *held the floor* for several hours.

on the cutting-room floor see CUTTING ROOM

take the floor 1 : to begin speaking at a public meeting • After Senator Smith was finished addressing the assembly, Senator White *took the floor*. 2 : to go out onto a dance floor to begin dancing • Several couples *took the floor*.

wipe the floor with see ¹WIPE

²**floor** *verb* floors; floored; floor-ing [+ *obj*]

1 : to cover (a surface) with material to make a floor — usually used as (be) *floored* • The lobby is *floored* with marble.

2 **a** : to knock (someone) to the floor or ground • He *floored*

me with his first punch. **b informal** : to surprise, shock or amaze (someone) very much • The news just *floored* me. — often used as *(be) floored* • I was *floored* by the news. • She was *floored* by his knowledge of the subject.

3 US, informal : to press (the accelerator of a vehicle) to the floor — usually used in the phrase *floor it* • When the light turned green, he *floored it*. [=he pressed the accelerator all the way down and sped away]

floor-board /'flɔːboːd/ *noun, pl -boards [count]*
1 : a board in a floor — usually plural • creaky *floorboards* • wide pine *floorboards*
2 US : the floor of a vehicle

floor-ing /'flɔːrɪŋ/ *noun [noncount]* : material used for floors • marble/tile/hardwood *flooring*

floor lamp *noun, pl ~ lamps [count]* : a tall lamp that stands on the floor — called also (Brit) *standard lamp*; see picture at LIGHTING

floor-length *adj* : reaching to the floor • a *floor-length* gown/mirror

floor plan *noun, pl ~ plans [count]* : a plan that shows the position of the rooms in a building • Before construction began, we adjusted the building's *floor plan* to take advantage of the view. • a house with an unusual *floor plan* — called also *ground plan*

floor show *noun, pl ~ shows [count]* : a series of acts by performers in a nightclub

floo-zy or floo-zie /'fluːzi/ *noun, pl -zies [count] informal + old-fashioned* : a usually young woman whose behavior is not morally correct or proper • chasing some *floozy* around
✧ *Floozy* is an insulting word. In U.S. English, *floozy* is the more common spelling; in British English, *floozy* is more common.

1 flop /'flɒp/ *verb flops; flopped; flop-ping [no obj]*
1 : to fall, lie, or sit down in a sudden, awkward, or relaxed way • He *flopped* down onto the bed. • She *flopped* into the chair with a sigh.
2 informal : to fail completely • The play *flopped*. [= (US) bombed] • All of their attempts have *flopped* miserably.
3 : to swing or move in a loose, awkward, or uncontrolled way • The curtains were *flopping* around in the breeze. — see also FLIP-FLOP

2 flop *noun, pl flops [count]*
1 informal : a complete failure • The movie was a total *flop*.
2 : the sound made when someone or something suddenly falls, lies, or sits down • It fell to the ground with a *flop*. — see also BELLY FLOP

flop-house /'flɒp.haʊs/ *noun, pl -houses [count] chiefly US, informal* : a very inexpensive hotel for poor people who do not have anywhere else to live • a crowded *flophouse* — called also (chiefly Brit) *doss-house*

1 flop-py /'flɒpi/ *adj flop-pi-er; -est* : soft and flexible • a *floppy* hat

2 floppy *noun, pl -pies [count]* : FLOPPY DISK

floppy disk *noun, pl ~ disks [count]* : a small, thin, square case with a flexible disk inside on which data for a computer can be stored — compare HARD DISK

flo-ra /'flɒrə/ *noun, pl -ras biology* : all the plants that live in a particular area, time, period, or environment [noncount] an amazing variety of coastal *flora* • aquatic *flora* [count] the *floras* of different coastal regions — compare FAUNA

flo-ral /'flɒrəl/ *adj [more ~; most ~]* : of or relating to flowers • a *floral* display/design [=a display/design that has pictures of flowers] • a *floral* pattern in wallpaper • The wine has a *floral* aroma. • a *floral* arrangement — see color picture on page C12
— **floral** *noun, pl -rals [count]* • Her most famous paintings are her *florals*. [=paintings in which flowers are the main subject]

flo-ret /'flɒrət/ *noun, pl -rets [count]* : a group of flower buds that are part of a vegetable • broccoli/cauliflower *florets* — see color picture on page C4

flor-id /'flɒrəd/ *adj [more ~; most ~]*
1 : very fancy or too fancy • *florid* writing
2 : having a red or reddish color • a *florid* [=ruddy] complexion • a *florid* face
— **flor-id-ly** *adv* • *floridly* written

flo-rist /'flɒrɪst/ *noun, pl -rists [count]* : a person whose job or business is to sell flowers and plants

1 floss /'flɒs/ *noun [noncount]*
1 : DENTAL FLOSS
2 : soft silk or cotton thread used for sewing

2 floss *verb floss-es; flossed; floss-ing* : to use dental floss to clean your teeth [no obj] My dentist told me I should *floss* more often. [+ obj] *floss* your teeth

flo-ta-tion /flou'teɪʃən/ *noun [noncount]* : the act, process, or state of floating or of causing or allowing something to float • fills the tanks with air for *flotation* • the *flotation* of a currency • (Brit) the *flotation* of a company [=the act or process of selling shares in a company to the public] • a (personal) *flotation device* [=a life preserver]

flo-til-la /flou'tɪlə/ *noun, pl -las [count]* : a group of small ships

flot-sam /'flɒtsəm/ *noun [noncount]* : floating pieces, parts, etc., from a ship that has been wrecked • *flotsam* washed up on the shore — often used figuratively • bits of *flotsam* gathered from yard sales • human *flotsam* [=people who have no home or who have been forced to leave their homes] — often used in the phrase *flotsam and jetsam* • He spends a lot of time sorting through the *flotsam and jetsam* that come(s) across his desk each day. — compare JETSAM

1 flounce /'flaʊns/ *verb flounc-es; flounced; flounc-ing [no obj]*
1 : to move with exaggerated motions • an actress *flouncing* around on the stage • a *flouncing* walk
2 chiefly Brit : to walk or move quickly in a way that shows anger or annoyance • He *flounced* out of the room and slammed the door behind him.

2 flounce *noun, pl flounces [count] chiefly Brit* : a quick way of walking or moving that shows anger or annoyance — usually singular • leave the room with a *flounce* — compare ³FLOUNCE

3 flounce *noun, pl flounces [count]* : a strip of cloth that is attached to a piece of clothing by one edge — compare ²FLOUNCE
— **flounced** *adj* • *flounced* blouses • a *flounced* skirt
— **flouncy** /'flaʊnsi/ *adj flounc-i-er; -est* • a *flouncy* skirt

1 floun-der /'flaʊndə/ *noun, pl flounder or floun-ders [count]* : a type of fish that has a flat body and that is eaten as food — see color picture on page C8

2 flounder *verb -ders; -dered; -der-ing [no obj]*
1 : to move in an awkward way with a lot of difficulty and effort : STRUGGLE • The horses were *floundering* through the deep snow. • He was *floundering* around in the pool like an amateur.
2 a : to be unsure about what to do or say • After watching me *flounder* for a few minutes, my instructor took over. **b** : to have a lot of problems and difficulties • The team has been *floundering* [=struggling] since the start of the season.

1 flour /'flaʊə/ *noun, pl flours* : powder made from a grain (especially wheat) that is used in cooking for making bread, cakes, etc. [noncount] a five-pound bag of *flour* [count] mix the two *flours* together
— **flour-less** /'flaʊələs/ *adj* • a *flourless* cake

2 flour *verb flours; floured; flour-ing [+ obj]* : to cover (something) with flour • a *floured* board • The fish should be lightly *floured* before it's fried.

1 flour-ish /'flɒrɪʃ/ *verb -ish-es; -ished; -ish-ing*
1 [no obj] : to grow well : to be healthy • plants and animals that *flourished* here thousands of years ago
2 [no obj] : to be very successful : to do very well • Regional markets have *flourished* in recent years. • a decorative style that *flourished* in the 1920s • a *flourishing* business
3 [+ obj] : to hold up and show (something) in an excited or proud way • Dressed as a pirate, he entered the stage *flourish-ing* his sword.

2 flourish *noun, pl -ishes [count]*
1 : something that is added as a detail or decoration • the *floral flourish*es in the living room • a house with many clever little *flourishes* • Her writing style is simple and clear, without unnecessary *flourishes*.
2 a : a dramatic or fancy way of doing something • Dinner was served with a *flourish*. **b** : a sudden smooth movement that is likely to be noticed • He waved his sword with a *flourish*. • She opened the door with a *flourish*. • With a *flourish* of her pen, she signed the bill into law.
3 : a short and exciting piece of music played by trumpets : FANFARE • a *flourish* of trumpets

floury /'flaʊəri/ *adj [more ~; most ~]*
1 : of or resembling flour • a *floury* coating
2 : covered with flour • He wiped his *floury* hands on his pants.

flout /'flaʊt/ *verb flouts; flout-ed; flout-ing [+ obj]* : to break or ignore (a law, rule, etc.) without hiding what you



are doing or showing fear or shame • Despite repeated warnings, they have continued to *flout* the law. • *flouting* authority • *flouting* convention — compare FLAUNT

1 flow /'flou/ verb **flows; flowed; flow-ing** [no obj]

1 of liquid, gas, or electricity : to move in a steady and continuous way • rivers *flowing* into the sea • a gently *flowing* [=running] stream • She opened the faucet and the water began to *flow* freely. • a device that measures the amount of electricity *flowing* through a circuit — often used figuratively • Excitement was *flowing* through the crowd.

2 a : to move in a continuous and smooth way • Traffic has been *flowing* smoothly/steadily from east to west. • The grain *flowed* smoothly down the elevator chute. **b** : to move, come, or go continuously in one direction • Requests have *flowed* into the office. • Money has continued to *flow* in.

3 a : to proceed in a smooth and easy way • Conversation *flowed* freely. **b of a drink** : to be drunk freely • The wine *flowed* freely throughout the evening. [=people drank wine throughout the evening]

4 : to hang down in a loose and graceful way • Her long hair *flowed* down over her shoulders.

5 : to be caused or produced by something : to come from something • the wealth that *flows* from trade

6 of a tide : to move in toward the land : RISE • The tide ebbs and *flows* twice every 24 hours.

— **flowing** *adj* • a long, *flowing* dress • her *flowing* hair

2 flow noun, pl **flows**

1 [singular] : an act of flowing • a sudden *flow* of tears : the movement of something that is flowing • a steady/smooth *flow* of traffic • The doctor was trying to stop/staunch the *flow* of blood. • We want to encourage the free *flow* of ideas. • the westward *flow* of settlers • We've been receiving a constant *flow* of phone calls.

2 [count] : a large area of mud or some other material that is flowing or that was formed by flowing • a mud *flow* • an ancient lava *flow* [=an area of rock that was created by flowing lava]

3 [noncount] : the amount of something that flows in a certain time • measuring blood *flow* to the brain — see also CASH FLOW

ebb and flow see **1 EBB**

go against the flow : to do things that do not agree with what most other people are doing • She has her own way of thinking and she's not afraid to *go against the flow*.

go with the flow : to relax and accept what is happening without trying to change things or do something different or difficult • When I'm on vacation, I just like to take it easy and *go with the flow*.

in full flow chiefly Brit **1** — used to describe someone who is talking continuously in a very enthusiastic way • He can talk for hours when he's *in full flow*. **2** — used to describe the time when something is most active, successful, etc. • When we arrived the party was already *in full flow*.

flow chart noun, pl ~ **charts** [count] : a chart that shows each step of a process using special symbols that are connected by lines

1 flower /'flawə/ noun, pl **-ers**

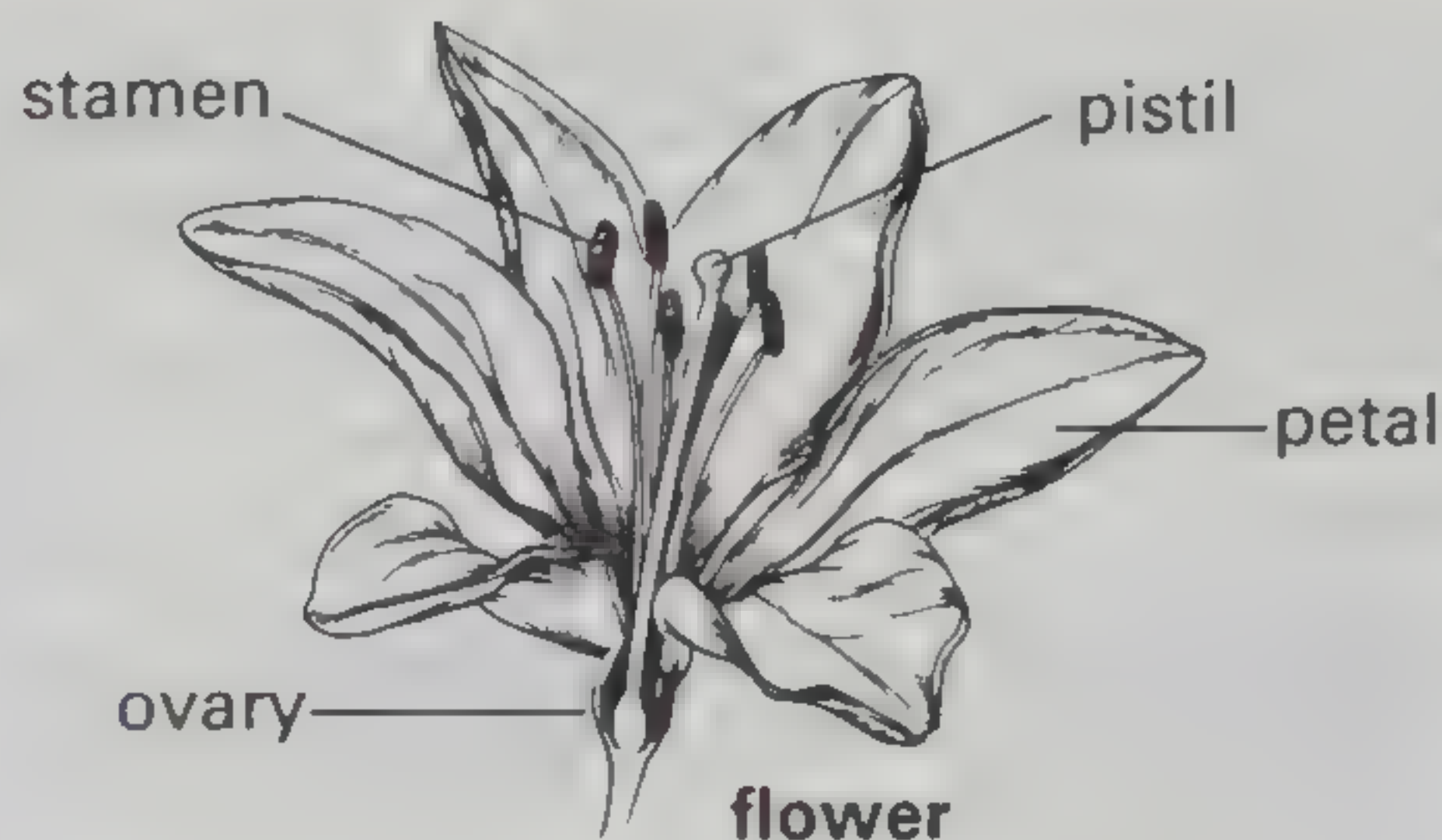
1 [count] **a** : the part of a plant that is often brightly colored, that usually lasts a short time, and from which the seed or fruit develops • The plant is known for its large white *flowers*. [=blossoms] • The tree *came into flower* early this year. [=the flowers on the tree bloomed early this year] • The bushes should be *in flower* soon. [=the flowers should be blooming soon] • These plants are very fragrant when they are *in* (full) *flower*. — sometimes used figuratively. • His interest in history *came into flower* [=developed] while he was just a boy. • She entered the movement after it was *in full flower*. [=after it was fully developed] — see color picture on page C6 **b** : a small plant that is grown for its beautiful flowers • We planted *flowers* in the garden. • *Flowers* line the walkway. • a *flower* garden **c** : a cut stem of a plant with its flower • He sent her a bouquet of *flowers*. • He wore a single *flower* in his lapel.

2 [singular] literary : the best part of something — used in the phrase *the flower of* • *The flower of* a generation was lost in that war. [=the best members of a generation died in that war] • He wrote his best works while *in the flower of his youth*. [=when he was young]

2 flower verb **-ers; -ered; -er-ing** [no obj]

1 : to produce flowers : BLOOM, BLOSSOM • This tree *flowers* in early spring. • The plant will *flower* every other year.

2 : to develop or grow in a successful way • His genius *flowered* at the university. • a political movement that began to *flower* during the 1960s



flower bed noun, pl ~ **beds** [count] : an area where flowers are planted

flower child noun, pl ~ **children** [count] : a young person in the 1960s and 1970s who rejected the traditional values of society : HIPPIE

flowered /'flawəd/ *adj* : decorated with flowers or with pictures of flowers • *flowered* silk • *flowered* wallpaper • a *flowered* dress

flower girl noun, pl ~ **girls** [count] US : a young girl who carries flowers at a wedding

1 flowering *adj* : having or producing many flowers • a *flowering* branch • *flowering* plants/shrubs/trees

2 flowering noun [singular] : the development of something • We witnessed the gradual *flowering* of his talent. [=we saw his talent gradually develop] • a period that saw the *flowering* of the civil rights movement

flower-pot /'flawə,pɔ:t/ noun, pl **-pots** [count] : a container (such as a clay or plastic pot) in which plants are grown

flower power noun [noncount] : the belief that war is wrong and that people should love each other and lead peaceful lives — used especially to refer to the beliefs and culture of young people (called hippies) in the 1960s and 1970s

flower-y /'flawəri/ *adj* **flower-i-er; -est** [also more ~; most ~]

1 a : filled with flowers • *flowery* fields **b** : decorated with pictures of flowers • We put two *flowery* prints in the dining room. • a *flowery* dress **c** : smelling like a flower : having a sweet smell like a flower • *flowery* perfume/wine

2 of language : very fancy or too fancy or elaborate • He gave a long, *flowery* speech. • *flowery* prose

flown past participle of **1 FLY**

fl. oz. abbr fluid ounce; fluid ounces

flu /'flu:/ noun [noncount] : a common disease that is caused by a virus and that causes fever, weakness, body aches, and breathing problems : INFLUENZA • He came down with a bad bout/attack/case of the *flu*. • catch/get the *flu* • She has the *flu*. = (Brit) She has *flu*. — often used before another noun • the *flu* season • a *flu* shot • a *flu* epidemic

flub /'flʌb/ verb **flubs; flubbed; flub-bing** [+ obj] US, informal : to fail to do (something) correctly : BOTCH • The ball went right to him but he *flubbed* the catch. • The actress *flubbed* several lines.

— **flub** noun, pl **flubs** [count] • a politician known for his verbal *flubs* [=mistakes, blunders]

fluc-tu-ate /'flʌktʃə,weɪt/ verb **-ates; -at-ed; -at-ing** [no obj] : to change level, strength, or value frequently • Oil prices *fluctuated* [=became higher, lower, etc.] throughout the year. • *fluctuating* prices • His popularity has *fluctuated* during his term in office. • In the desert, the temperature *fluctuates* dramatically.

— **fluc-tu-a-tion** /,flʌktʃə'weɪʃən/ noun, pl **-tions** [count] • Small *fluctuations* in prices are to be expected. [noncount]

He reported some *fluctuation* in/of real estate values.

flue /'flu:/ noun, pl **flues** [count] : a channel or pipe in a chimney for carrying flame and smoke to the outer air

flu-en-cy /'flu:wənsi/ noun [noncount]

1 : the ability to speak easily and smoothly • She speaks with great *fluency*; especially : the ability to speak a foreign language easily and effectively • Students must demonstrate *fluency* in a foreign language to earn a degree.

2 : the ability to do something in a way that seems very easy • a dancer known for her *fluency* and grace • He plays the piano with speed and *fluency*.

flu-ent /'flu:wənt/ *adj* [more ~; most ~]

1 a : able to speak a language easily and very well • a *fluent* speaker • a *fluent* speaker of Chinese — often + in • He is *fluent* in Chinese. **b** ♢ Language that is *fluent* is language that is spoken easily and very well. • She speaks *fluent* Spanish and a little French.

2 : done in a smooth and easy way • We admired their *fluent* [=fluid] movement across the dance floor. • a *fluent* performance

— **flu-ent-ly** *adv* • He speaks seven languages *fluently*.

¹**fluff** /'flʌf/ *noun* [noncount]

1 : something light and soft: such as a : small balls or pieces of thread, fiber, or dust • Her sweater was covered with *fluff*. b : soft fur or feathers

2 *chiefly US, informal* : something that has little importance or interest • The movie was pure *fluff*. • Her latest article has the usual *fluff* about movie stars and gossip.

²**fluff** *verb* **fluffs; fluffed; fluff-ing** [+ *obj*]

1 : to shake or move (something, such as a pillow) so that it is fuller, lighter, or softer • Would you like me to *fluff* (up) your pillows? • The wind *fluffed* his hair. • The bird spread its wings and *fluffed* (up) its feathers.

2 *informal* : to do (something) badly : FLUB • The golfer *fluffed* another shot. • The actor kept *fluffing* the same line.

fluffy /'flʌfi/ *adj* **fluff-i-er; -est**

1 : covered with soft material • the *fluffy* fur of a kitten • *fluffy* young chicks • a *fluffy* wool blanket

2 : light and soft or airy • Beat the egg whites until they are *fluffy*. • furniture with big *fluffy* cushions • a favorite *fluffy* sweater : having a light and soft appearance • a *fluffy* white cloud

¹**flu-id** /'flu:wəd/ *adj* [more ~; most ~]

1 : capable of flowing freely like water • *fluid* lava • a substance in a *fluid* state

2 — used to describe something that can change easily or that changes often • Boundaries between the farms were very *fluid*. • a *fluid* situation

3 : having or showing a smooth and easy style : GRACEFUL • a dancer's *fluid* movements • the sculpture's *fluid* lines

— **flu-id-i-ty** /flu'idəti/ *noun* [noncount] • The extreme *fluidity* of the situation has made it impossible to predict the outcome. • She plays the violin with great *fluidity*. — **flu-id-ly** *adv* • moving *fluidly*

²**fluid** *noun, pl -ids* : a substance that is able to flow freely : a liquid substance [count] Please check the *fluids* in the car's engine. • She needs to drink plenty of *fluids*. [noncount] *Fluid* leaked from the car's engine. • a bottle of yellow *fluid*

fluid ounce *noun, pl ~ ounces* [count]

1 *US* : a unit of liquid measurement equal to $\frac{1}{16}$ of a U.S. pint or about 29.6 milliliters

2 *Brit* : a unit of liquid measurement equal to $\frac{1}{20}$ of a British pint or about 28.4 milliliters

fluke /'flu:k/ *noun, pl flukes* [count] *informal* : something that happens because of luck : an unexpected or unusual thing that happens by accident • Her second championship shows that the first one was no mere *fluke*. • By some strange *fluke* we ended up working for the same company.

flung *past tense and past participle of* ¹FLING

flunk /'flʌŋk/ *verb* **flunks; flunked; flunk-ing** *US, informal*

1 : to get a failing grade in (something, such as an examination or course) : FAIL [+ *obj*] If I *flunk* this class, I have to take it over again. • *flunk* a test [no *obj*] If I *flunk*, I have to take this class over again.

2 [+ *obj*] : to give a failing grade to (someone) : FAIL • The teacher had to *flunk* two students.

flunk out [phrasal verb] *US, informal* : to be required to leave a school because you have failed your courses • He tried going to college, but he *flunked out* after one year. — often + *of* • He *flunked out of* college.

flun-ky or flun-key /'flʌŋki/ *noun, pl -kies or -keys* [count] *informal + disapproving* : a person who does small jobs for someone powerful or important • If he can't go himself, he'll send one of his *flunkies*.

flu-o-res-cent /flu'resnt/ *adj*

1 : producing light when electricity flows through a tube that is filled with a type of gas • a *fluorescent* light/lamp

2 : very bright • *fluorescent* colors/clothing • *fluorescent* tape/paint

— **flu-o-res-cence** /flu'resns/ *noun* [noncount]

flu-o-ri-date /'flurə,deɪt/ *verb -dates; -dat-ed; -dat-ing* : to add fluoride to (water or toothpaste) — often used as (be) *fluoridated* • The drinking water here is *fluoridated*. • *fluoridated* toothpaste

— **flu-o-ri-da-tion** /,flurə'deɪʃən/ *noun* [noncount]

flu-o-ride /'fluə,raɪd/ *noun* [noncount] : a chemical that is sometimes added to drinking water and toothpaste to help keep teeth healthy

flur-ry /'flʌri/ *noun, pl -ries* [count]

1 : a brief and light snowfall • We had a few *flurries* yesterday. • a snow *flurry*

2 a : a brief period of excitement or activity — + *of* • There was a *flurry* of trading in the stock exchange. • The incident could create a *flurry* of interest in safety issues. b : a large amount of something that happens or comes suddenly — + *of* • a *flurry* [=barrage] of publicity • There was a *flurry* of requests for more information.

¹**flush** /'flʌʃ/ *noun, pl flush-es* [count]

1 : redness on a person's face because of emotion, heat, etc. • A *flush* spread over her face at the mention of his name. — see also HOT FLUSH

2 : the act of cleaning a toilet with a flow of water : the act of flushing a toilet • We could hear the *flush* of a toilet somewhere in the building. • give the toilet a *flush*

3 : a sudden feeling or strong emotion — + *of* • a *flush* of grief/pleasure • He felt a *flush* of pride in his son's victory. *in the (first) flush of* : in the early and exciting time of (something) • She published her first novel while still *in the flush* of youth. [=while still young] • Everyone felt hopeful *in the first flush* of victory.

— compare ⁶FLUSH

²**flush** *verb* **flushes; flushed; flush-ing**

1 : to cause a strong flow of water to clean (a toilet) [+ *obj*] *flush* the toilet [no *obj*] The toilet *flushes* automatically. ♢ If you *flush something down the toilet* you get rid of it by putting it in the toilet bowl and flushing the toilet. • Police suspect that the drugs were *flushed down the toilet*.

2 [+ *obj*] a : to clean (something) with a flow of water or some other liquid • *Flush* the wound immediately with water. • The doctor *flushed* her eye with a special solution. — often + *out* • He *flushed out* the car's radiator. • *flush out* the system b : to remove (something) with a flow of liquid • They *flushed* impurities from the system. = They *flushed* impurities out of the system. • He used a hose to *flush* the leaves from the gutters.

3 [no *obj*] : to become red in the face because of heat, emotion, etc. • She *flushed* with anger/embarrassment. • Her face *flushed* at the mention of his name.

— compare ³FLUSH

³**flush** *verb* **flushes; flushed; flushing** [+ *obj*] : to cause or force (someone or something) to leave a hiding place • The police *flushed* the suspects from the building. — usually + *out* • The police *flushed out* the suspects. • The birds were *flushed out* of the tree. — sometimes used figuratively • The committee succeeded in *flushing out* [=finding] several good candidates. • The agency *flushed out* a surprising number of tax evaders. — compare ²FLUSH

⁴**flush** *adj, not used before a noun*

1 : even or level with another surface • The paneling and the wall should be *flush* (with each other).

2 *informal* : having a large amount of money • He just got paid and he was feeling *flush*. — often + *with* • Right now the town is *flush with* money. [=the town has more money than usual]

⁵**flush** *adv*

1 : in order to be level or even with another surface — + *with* • He arranged the books *flush with* the edge of the shelf.

2 : in a very forceful way : in a way that makes very solid contact • He landed a punch *flush* [=squarely] on my chin. • She placed her hands *flush* against the door and pushed with all her might. • He hit the ball *flush*.

⁶**flush** *noun, pl flushes* [count] : a set of cards that a player has in a card game (such as poker) that are all of the same suit (such as diamonds) • She won the pot with a *flush*. — see also ROYAL FLUSH — compare ¹FLUSH

flushed *adj* : red because of heat or emotion • a *flushed* face • *flushed* cheeks ♢ If you are *flushed with* some emotion, such as pride or excitement, you feel that emotion very strongly. • He was *flushed with* pride at his daughter's graduation. ♢ If you are *flushed with success*, you are very happy and excited because you have succeeded in doing something. • *Flushed with success* after winning the election, she made plans for some dramatic new programs in the coming year.

flus-ter /'flʌstə/ *verb -ters; -tered; -ter-ing* : to make (someone) nervous and confused [+ *obj*] The interruption *flustered* the speaker. • Nothing *flusters* her. [no *obj*] Some speakers *fluster* more easily than others.

flustered *adj* [more ~; most ~] : upset or nervous • She seemed *flustered* when he asked about her past. • Don't do anything to get him *flustered*. • He was too *flustered* to speak.

flute /'flu:t/ *noun*, *pl* **flutes** [count]

1 : a musical instrument that is shaped like a thin pipe and that is played by blowing across a hole near one end — see picture at WOODWIND

2 : a tall, thin glass that is used for drinking champagne

flut·ed /'flu:təd/ *adj* : decorated with a series of long, rounded lines that are cut into the surface • The mansion has six *fluted* columns across the porch.

— **flut·ing** /'flu:tɪŋ/ *noun* [noncount] • columns with *fluting*

flut·ist /'flu:tɪst/ *noun*, *pl* **-ists** [count] *US* : a flute player : FLAUTIST

¹**flut·ter** /'flʌtə/ *verb* **-ters**; **-tered**; **-ter·ing**

1 *of a bird or insect* **a** : to move or flap the wings quickly without flying [+ *obj*] The bird was *fluttering* its wings. [no *obj*] The bird's wings were *fluttering*. **b** [no *obj*] : to fly lightly with quick beats of the wings • We watched the butterflies *fluttering* in the garden.

2 : to move with quick, light movements [no *obj*] Leaves *fluttered* to the ground. • The breeze made the curtains *flutter*. [+ *obj*] The breeze *fluttered* the curtains. • She *fluttered* her eyelashes at him.

3 [no *obj*] : to move or behave in a nervous and excited way • She nervously *fluttered* around the office. ✧ If your *heart/stomach flutters*, you become very nervous or excited. • Her *heart fluttered* when she saw the letter in the mail. • Just the mention of his name *makes my stomach flutter*.

²**flutter** *noun*, *pl* **-ters**

1 [count] : a quick, light movement • With a *flutter* of wings, the birds settled into the nest. • The *flutter* of the flame cast shadows on the ceiling.

2 [singular] : a state of excitement or confusion • He was in a *flutter* until he found his keys. • The news of her resignation caused quite a *flutter*. • a *flutter* of excitement

3 [count] *Brit, informal* : a small bet • have a *flutter* on a horse in the second race

4 [noncount] *technical* : quick changes in the pitch of recorded sound • The stereo is designed to minimize *flutter*.

flux /'flʌks/ *noun* [noncount]

1 : a series of changes : continuous change • Language is in a state of constant *flux*. = Language is constantly in a state of *flux*. [=language is changing constantly]

2 *technical* : a substance used for helping to melt or join metals

¹**fly** /'flaɪ/ *verb* **flies**; **flew** /'flu:/; **flown** /'floun/; **fly·ing**

1 [no *obj*] : to move through the air with wings • A bird *flew* in through the open window. • insects *flying* over the water

2 [no *obj*] : to move through the air especially at a high speed • We watched as clouds *flew* across the sky. • Waves crashed on the rocks and spray *flew* up into the air. • Bullets were *fly·ing* in all directions. • He tripped and *went fly·ing* (through the air). — often used figuratively • *Rumors are fly·ing* [=there are a lot of rumors] that he'll be announcing his candidacy soon. • *Accusations are fly·ing*. [=people are making a lot of accusations]

3 **a** : to control an airplane, helicopter, etc., as it moves through the air : to be the pilot of an aircraft [+ *obj*] *fly* a plane • He *flies* jets. [no *obj*] He learned to *fly* while he was in the Air Force. • She *flies* for a major airline. • She's taking *fly·ing* lessons. **b** [+ *obj*] : to journey over (something, such as an ocean) by flying an airplane • Charles Lindbergh was the first person to *fly* the Atlantic solo.

4 **a** [no *obj*] : to travel in an aircraft or spacecraft • They *flew* to California for vacation. • I'm *fly·ing* to Canada to visit my family. • He insists on *fly·ing* first-class. • A doctor *flew* in from the mainland. • She *flew* on a shuttle mission last year. **b** [+ *obj*] : to travel by flying on (a particular airline) • He always *flies* the same airline. [=he always flies on the same airline] **c** [+ *obj*] : to carry (someone or something) to a place in an aircraft • Supplies were *flown* to the disaster area. • They *fly* cargo around the world. • A doctor was *flown* in from the mainland.

5 **a** : to show (something, such as a flag) by putting it in a high place [+ *obj*] We *flew* a banner across the entrance. [no *obj*] A flag *flies* in front of the building. = There is a flag *fly·ing* in front of the building. — see also *fly the flag* at ¹FLAG **b** [+ *obj*] : to cause (something, such as a kite) to fly in the air • Children were *fly·ing* kites in the park. — see also *go fly a kite* at KITE

6 [no *obj*] : to move or go quickly • She *flew* to the window when she heard the car. • The door *flew* open and he rushed into the room. • I *flew* up the stairs to answer the phone. • I must *fly* or I'll be late for my appointment. • That horse real-

ly *flies*. • Cars were *fly·ing* past us on the highway.

7 [no *obj*] : to move freely • As she ran, her hair *flew* in every direction.

8 [no *obj*] : to pass very quickly • Time *flies*. • Our vacation *flew* by before we knew it.

9 [no *obj*] *chiefly US, informal* : to be approved or accepted — usually used in negative statements • This plan will never *fly*. • His budget proposals didn't *fly* with voters. [=voters didn't like his proposals]

as the *crow flies* see ¹CROW

fly at [phrasal verb] **fly at (someone)** : to attack (someone) with sudden violence • He *flew at* me in a rage.

fly high informal 1 : to be very happy and excited • She was *fly·ing high* after her excellent exam results. 2 : to be very successful • After some difficult years, the company is *fly·ing high* again.

fly in the face of also US fly in the teeth of : to fail completely to agree with (something) : to oppose or contradict (something) directly • His explanation *flies in the face of* the evidence. [=his explanation is not supported at all by the evidence] • a theory that *flies in the face of* logic [=a theory that is not logical at all] • a policy that *flies in the face of* reason [=a policy that is extremely unreasonable]

fly into [phrasal verb] **fly into (something)** : to be overcome by (sudden extreme emotion) • He *flew into* a rage. [=he suddenly became very angry] • They *flew into* a panic. [=they suddenly panicked]

fly off the handle informal : to lose control of your emotions : to become very angry • He tends to *fly off the handle* when people disagree with him.

fly the coop informal : to leave suddenly or secretly : to escape or go away • In the morning the suspect had *flown the coop*. • All their children have *flown the coop*. [=have moved away from home]

let fly or let fly with informal : to throw (something) in a forceful way • The quarterback *let fly* (with) a long pass. — often used figuratively • She *let fly* (with) a few angry words. [=she shouted a few angry words]

— compare ²FLY

²**fly verb flies; flied; fly·ing** [no *obj*] *baseball* : to hit a fly ball • The batter *flied* to left field. • He *flied* out to left field. [=he made an out by hitting a fly ball that was caught by the left fielder] — compare ¹FLY

³**fly noun, pl flies** [count]

1 : a small insect that has two wings • swat a *fly* • the buzz of a *fly*

2 : a hook that is designed to look like an insect and that is used for catching fish • an artificial *fly* — see also FLY-FISHING

drop like flies also die like flies informal ✧ If people or animals are *dropping/dying like flies*, they are dropping or dying very quickly in large numbers. • The heat was so intense that people were *dropping like flies*. [=many people were fainting from the heat] • Horses and cattle *dropped/died like flies* during the drought. These phrases are often used figuratively. • Candidates were *dropping like flies* during the early part of the campaign.

fly in the ointment : someone or something that causes problems • We're almost ready to start work. Getting the permit is the only *fly in the ointment*.

fly on the wall : someone who secretly watches or listens to other people • I would like to be a *fly on the wall* during the negotiations. [=I would like to be able to hear what is being said during the negotiations]

no flies on chiefly Brit, informal ✧ If *there are no flies on* you, you are a smart person who is quick to understand things and not easily fooled.

wouldn't hurt a fly ✧ Someone who *wouldn't hurt a fly* is too gentle to want to hurt anyone. • He looks big and dangerous, but he *wouldn't hurt a fly*.

— compare ⁴FLY

⁴**fly noun, pl flies** [count]

1 : an opening in a piece of clothing (such as a pair of trousers, shorts, or a skirt) that is hidden by a fold of cloth and that is closed by a zipper or a row of buttons • He *zipped/buttoned* his *fly*. — sometimes plural in British English • He *zipped* his *flies*. — see color picture on page C16

2 *baseball* : FLY BALL • He hit a *fly* to the left fielder.

on the fly 1 : quickly and often without preparation • You'll have to make decisions *on the fly*. 2 : through the air : without hitting the ground • The home run went 450 feet *on the fly*. 3 : while something else is also being done

- on a computer • software that handles formatting *on the fly*
— compare ³FLY
- fly-away** /'flaɪəweɪ/ *adj.* of hair : very thin and light : difficult to keep tidy • *flyaway hair*
- fly ball** *noun*, *pl* ~ **balls** [count] *baseball* : a baseball that is hit high into the air • He hit a long *fly ball* to left field.
— compare GROUND BALL
- fly-blown** /'flaɪbloun/ *adj.* chiefly *Brit* : in poor and dirty condition • a *flyblown* old building : made dirty by flies : not suitable for eating • *flyblown* food
- fly-boy** /'flaɪboɪ/ *noun*, *pl* -**boys** [count] *US, informal + old-fashioned* : a man who is a pilot in the Air Force
- fly-by** /'flaɪbaɪ/ *noun*, *pl* -**bys** [count]
1 *US* : a usually low flight past a group of people at an air show, during a parade, etc., by an aircraft or group of aircraft — called also *flyover*, (*Brit*) *fly-past*
2 : a flight of a spacecraft past a planet, moon, etc.
- fly-by-night** /'flaɪbaɪnaɪt/ *adj.* always used before a *noun*, *informal* : trying to make money quickly by using dishonest or illegal methods • a *fly-by-night* insurance company
- fly-catcher** /'flaɪkætʃə, 'flaɪkætʃə/ *noun*, *pl* -**ers** [count] : a type of bird that catches and eats flying insects
- flyer** *variant spelling of FLIER*
- fly-fish-ing** /'flaɪfɪʃɪŋ/ *noun* [noncount] : the activity of catching fish by using artificial flies • do some *fly-fishing* • He plans to go *fly-fishing* this weekend.
- ¹**fly-ing** /'flaɪɪŋ/ *adj.* : moving or able to move in the air • *flying* insects • *flying* clouds • a story about a *flying* car
with flying colors : with complete or great success • She passed the exam *with flying colors*. • They came through the ordeal *with flying colors*.
- ²**flying** *noun* [noncount] : the activity of traveling in an aircraft • She doesn't enjoy *flying*.
- flying buttress** *noun*, *pl* ~ -**tresses** [count] : a structure that supports a wall or building from the outside
- flying fish** *noun*, *pl* ~ **fish** or ~ **fishes** [count] : a type of fish that has long fins which look like wings and that is able to jump out of the water and glide through the air
- flying machine** *noun*, *pl* ~ -**chines** [count] : a machine that is able to fly; *especially* : an airplane from the time when airplanes had recently been invented
- flying officer** *noun*, *pl* ~ -**cers** [count] : an officer in the British Air Force
- flying saucer** *noun*, *pl* ~ -**cers** [count] : a flying object that people say they have seen in the sky, that is usually round like a saucer or disc, and that is believed by some people to be a spaceship from another world : UFO
- flying start** *noun*, *pl* ~ **starts** [singular] : a good or fast start • The meeting got off to a *flying start*. • The restaurant made a *flying start* by filling up on opening night.
- fly-leaf** /'flaɪli:f/ *noun*, *pl* -**leaves** /-,li:vz/ [count] : an empty page at the beginning or end of a book
- fly-over** /'flaɪoʊvə/ *noun*, *pl* -**overs** [count]
1 *US* : FLYBY 1
2 *Brit* : OVERPASS
- fly-pa-per** /'flaɪpeɪpə/ *noun* [noncount] : a long piece of sticky paper that is used for catching and killing flies
- fly-past** /'flaɪpæst, *Brit* 'flaɪpɑ:st/ *noun*, *pl* -**pasts** [count] *Brit* : FLYBY 1
- fly-speck** /'flaɪspek/ *noun*, *pl* -**specks** [count]
1 : a very small piece of waste matter from a fly
2 *informal* : something that is very small • She grew up in a *flyspeck* of a town.
- fly-swat-ter** /'flaɪswɑ:tə/ *noun*, *pl* -**ers** [count] : a device used for killing flies and other insects that consists of a flat piece of plastic or other material attached to a handle
- fly-weight** /'flaɪweɪt/ *noun*, *pl* -**weights** [count] : a fighter in a class of boxers who does not weigh more than 112 pounds (51 kilograms)
- fly-wheel** /'flaɪwi:l/ *noun*, *pl* -**wheels** [count] : a heavy wheel that is part of a machine and that controls the speed of machinery
- FM** /'ef,em/ *noun* [noncount] : a system for sending radio signals in which the number of radio waves per second is changed in order to send information in the form of sound
✧ *FM* is an abbreviation of "frequency modulation."
— compare AM
— *FM adj.* • an *FM* radio/station • This station is *FM* only.
- ¹**foal** /'foul/ *noun*, *pl* **foals** [count] : a young horse; *especially* : a horse that is less than one year old — compare COLT, FILLY

²**foal** *verb* **foals**; **foaled**; **foal-ing** [*no obj*] : to give birth to a foal • The mare will *foal* in June.

¹**foam** /'foum/ *noun* [noncount]

1 : a mass of small bubbles that are formed in or on a liquid • As I poured the beer, *foam* bubbled up in the glass.

2 : a substance that is like a thick liquid made of many small bubbles • The fire extinguisher is filled with *foam*. • a can of shaving *foam*

3 : a soft material that is used to make many products : FOAM RUBBER — often used before another noun • a *foam* mattress/pillow

— **foam-i-ness** /'fouminəs/ *noun* [noncount] — **foamy** /'foumi/ *adj* **foam-i-er**; -**est** • a *foamy* glass of beer

²**foam** *verb* **foams**; **foamed**; **foam-ing** [*no obj*] : to produce foam • The soda *foamed* in the glass. • The mixture will bubble and *foam* when you add the yeast.

foam at the mouth 1 : to produce foam from the mouth because of illness or excitement • The dog was *foaming at the mouth*. 2 *informal* : to be very angry about something • He was *foaming at the mouth* with rage.

foam rubber *noun* [noncount] : a soft and light rubber material that has many small holes throughout it and is used to make various products • The mattress/pad is (made of) *foam rubber*. — often used before another noun • a *foam-rubber* mattress/pad

¹**fob** /'fɑ:b/ *noun*, *pl* **fobs** [count]

1 : a short chain attached especially to a pocket watch

2 : a small object that is a decoration on a watch chain or a key ring

²**fob** *verb* **fobs**; **fobbed**; **fob-bing**

fob off [*phrasal verb*] **fob** (someone or something) off or **fob off** (someone or something) *informal* 1 : to cause (someone) to accept something that is false, badly made, etc., instead of what is wanted — + *with* • He thought he could *fob me off with* some weak excuse about being too busy to talk. 2 : to present or offer (something fake or false) as genuine or true • They're trying to *fob off* science fiction as truth. [=trying to make people believe that something that is science fiction is true] 3 *US* : to give (someone or something not wanted) to someone else : to palm off (someone or something) — often + *on* • The child's father was always *fobbing her off on* relatives and babysitters.

fo-cal /'foukəl/ *adj.* always used before a *noun* : having central or great importance • a *focal* figure in the movement

focal length *noun*, *pl* ~ **lengths** [count] *technical* : the distance from the surface of a lens to the point of focus (sense 3)

focal point *noun*, *pl* ~ **points** [count]

1 : a center of activity, interest, or attention • This port was the *focal point* of trade two centuries ago. • The new school curriculum was the *focal point* [=focus] of the debate.

2 *technical* : ¹FOCUS 3

¹**fo-cus** /'foukəs/ *noun*, *pl* **fo-ci** /'fou,sai/ also **fo-cus-es**

1 [count] : a subject that is being discussed or studied : the subject on which people's attention is focused — usually singular • The *focus* of our discussion/debate/attention will be drug abuse. • The scandal became the primary *focus* of the day's news coverage. • The study's main *focus* is adults with sleep disorders.

2 : a main purpose or interest [noncount] He's successful, but he feels that his life lacks *focus*. [singular] His life lacks a *focus*.

3 [count] *technical* : a point at which rays of light, heat, or sound meet or from which they move apart or appear to move apart; *especially* : the point at which an image is formed by a mirror, a lens, etc.

4 [noncount] **a** : a state in which something (such as a camera, a telescope, or a person's eyes) produces a clear picture or image • bringing the binoculars *into focus* [=focusing the binoculars; adjusting the binoculars so that the image seen through them is clear and sharp] • It took him a few seconds after he woke up to bring his eyes *into focus*. [=to focus his eyes] • The binoculars were not *in focus*. = The binoculars were *out of focus*. [=the binoculars were not focused] **b** : a state in which the small details of a picture or image can be clearly seen • It was a nice picture—the family was *in focus* and everyone was smiling. • Unfortunately, several of the pictures were *out of focus*. — see also SOFT FOCUS **c** : a state or condition in which something can be clearly understood • She tried to bring the important issues *into focus*. [=she tried to say clearly what the important issues were]

²**focus** *verb* -cuses *also* -cus·ses; -cused *also* -cussed; -cus·ing *also* -cus·sing

1 [+ *obj*] : to cause (something, such as attention) to be directed at something specific — + *on* • The crime has *focused* public attention *on* the problem of parole. • We need to *focus* our efforts *on* getting the work done.

2 [*no obj*] : to direct your attention or effort at something specific • She has an amazing ability to *focus* for hours at a time. — often + *on* • We need to *focus on* getting the work done. • The day's news coverage *focused* primarily/mainly *on* the scandal.

3 : to adjust (something, such as a lens or a camera) to make an image clear [+ *obj*] *focus* a telescope • I wasn't able to *focus* the camera. • He *focused* his binoculars on a distant ship. [=he looked through his binoculars at a distant ship] [*no obj*] I wasn't able to get the camera to *focus*. ♦ If you *focus your eyes* on something or if your *eyes focus* on something, you look at that thing so that you can see it clearly. • Everyone *focused their eyes* on her [=everyone looked at her] when she entered the room. • His *eyes were focused* on the road. = He kept his *eyes focused* on the road.

4 *technical* : to cause (light) to come together at a point [+ *obj*] *focus* rays of light [*no obj*] laser beams that *focus* at a single point

focused *also* **focussed** *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]

1 : giving attention and effort to a specific task or goal • They are making a *focused* effort to win support for the proposal.

2 : having very clear and definite goals and ambitions • She's a very *focused* and determined young woman.

focus group *noun, pl* ~ **groups** [*count*] : a small group of people whose opinions about something (such as a politician or a new product) are studied to learn the opinions that can be expected from a larger group

fod·der /'fɑ:də/ *noun* [*noncount*]

1 : food given to horses, cows, etc. • grain used for *fodder*

2 : material that is used for a particular purpose • His antics always make good *fodder* for the gossip columnists. • She often used her friends' problems as *fodder* for her novels. — see also CANNON FODDER

foe /'fou/ *noun, pl* **foes** [*count*] : an enemy • political *foes* • Many considered him a *foe* of democracy. • Her ability was acknowledged by friend and *foe* alike.

foetal, foetus *chiefly Brit spellings of* FETAL, FETUS

¹**fog** /'fɑ:g/ *noun*

T : many small drops of water floating in the air above the ground, the sea, etc. [*noncount*] Heavy *fog* made it difficult to see the road. • a patch/blanket of *fog* • ocean *fog* [*count*] a climate marked by heavy *fogs* • The *fog* reduced visibility to a quarter of a mile.

2 [*singular*] : a state of mental confusion • This problem has me in a *fog*. • an alcohol-induced *fog*

²**fog** *verb* **fogs; fogged; fog·ging**

1 **a** [+ *obj*] : to cover or fill (something) with small drops of water : to make (something) foggy • The steam from the pot was *fogging* the window near the stove. • The cold air *fogged* (up) his glasses. • The bathroom was all *fogged up* after my shower. **b** [*no obj*] : to become foggy • His glasses were *fogging*. — often + *up* • His glasses were *fogging up*. • The weather is *fogging up*.

2 [+ *obj*] : to make (someone or something) confused • politicians who try to *fog* the issue instead of taking a stand • drugs that *fog* [=cloud] your mind/judgment

fog·bound /'fɑ:g,baund/ *adj*

1 : unable to move or travel because of fog • a *fogbound* ship • *fogbound* travelers

2 : covered by fog • a *fogbound* coast

fogey *chiefly Brit spelling of* FOGY

fog·gy /'fɑ:gi/ *adj* **fog·gi·er; -est**

1 **a** : having or filled with fog • a gray, *foggy* morning • *foggy* weather • a *foggy* valley **b** : covered with small drops of water • a *foggy* mirror • *foggy* glasses

2 : not clear : vague or confused • I don't remember what her name was—my memory is a little *foggy*. • I haven't the *foggiest* [=faintest] idea what she's talking about. [=I don't understand what she is talking about at all] • "Where did I put my keys?" "I *haven't the foggiest*." [=I have no idea; I don't know]

— **fog·gi·ly** /'fɑ:gəli/ *adv* — **fog·gi·ness** /'fɑ:ginəs/ *noun* [*noncount*]

Foggy Bottom *noun* [*singular*] *informal* : the U.S. Department of State

fog·horn /'fɑ:g,hɔ:n/ *noun, pl* -horns [*count*] : a horn on a boat, ship, etc., that makes a loud, deep sound and is used in foggy weather to warn nearby ships — often used figuratively to describe someone with a very loud voice • He has a *fog-horn* voice. [=a voice like a foghorn]

fog lamp *noun, pl* ~ **lamps** [*count*] : a very bright light on the front of a vehicle that is used to help the driver see better in fog — called also *fog light*

fo·gy (*chiefly US*) or *chiefly Brit* **fo·gey** /'fougi/ *noun, pl* **fo·gies** [*count*] : a person with old-fashioned ideas — usually used with *old* • Maybe I'm just an *old fogy*, but I don't think this kind of music is appropriate for children.

— **fo·gy·ish** (*chiefly US*) or *chiefly Brit* **fo·gey·ish** /'fougijɪʃ/ *adj* • a *fogyish* old man

foi·ble /'foibəl/ *noun, pl* **foi·bles** [*count*] : a minor fault in someone's character or behavior — usually plural • We all have our little *foibles*. • He was amused by the *foibles* of his eccentric neighbor.

foie gras /'fwa:'grɑ:/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a food made from the liver of a goose : PÂTÉ DE FOIE GRAS

¹**foil** /'fojəl/ *verb* **foils; foiled; foil·ing** [+ *obj*]

1 : to prevent (someone) from doing something or achieving a goal : DEFEAT • Police managed to *foil* the burglars. — often used as (be) *foiled* • He *was foiled* by his opponents once again. • She *was foiled* by her own indecision.

2 : to prevent (something) from happening or being successful • Police *foiled* an attempted robbery. • Her accident *foiled* her dreams of becoming a dancer.

²**foil** *noun, pl* **foils**

1 [*noncount*] : a very thin and light sheet of metal • Cover the dish with aluminum *foil*. • kitchen *foil* [=foil used to wrap or cover food] • candy wrapped in *foil* — see also SILVER FOIL, TINFOIL

2 [*count*] : someone or something that is different from another person or thing in a useful or appealing way — usually + *for* or *to* • He acted as a *foil for* the comedian. [=he acted very serious to make the comedian seem funnier] • That dark blue dress is good *foil for* her blonde hair. • His reserved manner was a perfect *foil for/to* her bubbly personality.

3 [*count*] : a sword that has a light, thin blade and that is used in the sport of fencing

foist /'foist/ *verb* **foists; foist·ed; foist·ing** [+ *obj*] : to force someone to accept (something that is not good or not wanted) — usually + *on* or *upon* • scams that *foist* high funeral expenses *on* grieving customers • He *foisted* his prejudices *upon* his young students. • phony paintings *foisted* (off) *on* naïve buyers

¹**fold** /'fould/ *verb* **folds; fold·ed; fold·ing**

T : to bend one part of (something) over or against another part [+ *obj*] He *folded* the paper in half and then unfolded it again. • *Fold* the flaps open/shut. • He *folded* the blanket and laid it at the foot of the bed. • She *folded* over the edge of the fabric to make a hem. • a piece of paper *folded* into the shape of a bird [*no obj*] The paper *folded* easily. • The map *folds* neatly/flat so you can fit it in a pocket.

2 : to reduce the length or size of something (such as a piece of furniture) by moving parts of it so that they lie close together [+ *obj*] We *folded* (up) the lawn chair and put it in the trunk. [*no obj*] The lawn chair *folded* (up) easily. • The bed *folds* (away) into a space in the wall.

3 [+ *obj*] **a** : to put your arm or hand over your other arm or hand in a way that keeps them together • She *folded* [=crossed] her arms across her chest. • She *folded* her hands on her lap. • He *folded* his arms around her. • hands *folded* in prayer **b** : to bend (a leg, a knee, an elbow, etc.) • He sat with his legs *folded* under him.

4 [+ *obj*] *literary* : to put your arms around (someone) : EM-BRACE • She *folded* him in her arms.

5 [+ *obj*] : to add (a food ingredient) to a mixture by gently and repeatedly lifting one part over another • *Fold* the egg whites into the chocolate mixture.

6 [*no obj*] : to fail completely : COLLAPSE • The business *folded*.

7 [*no obj*] : to accept defeat in a card game (such as poker) by removing your cards from the game • Realizing that she probably wasn't bluffing, he decided to *fold*.

²**fold** *noun, pl* **folds** [*count*]

T : a line or mark made by bending one part of something over another part and pressing at the bent edge : a line or mark made by folding something : CREASE • the *fold* in a newspaper

2 : a part of something (such as cloth or skin) that lies or

hangs over another part • hidden in the *folds* of the curtain • the *folds* of her dress • He had *folds* of flab around his middle.

3 : the act of folding something • She made a paper airplane by using a simple series of *folds*.

4 *technical* : a bend produced in a rock layer by pressure — compare ³FOLD

³fold noun, pl folds

1 [count] : an enclosed area for sheep

2 *the fold* : a group of people who have a shared faith or interest • His former colleagues would be glad to welcome him back into *the fold*.

— compare ²FOLD

-fold /ˈfoʊld/ suffix

1 : multiplied by (a specified number) : times • a *twelvefold* increase • It will repay you *tenfold*.

2 : having (so many) parts • a *threefold* problem

fold-a-way /ˈfoʊldəˌweɪ/ *adj*, always used before a noun : designed to be folded for storage : FOLDING • a *foldaway* bed/table

fold-er /ˈfoʊldə/ noun, pl -ers [count]

1 : a folded cover or large envelope for holding documents — see picture at OFFICE

2 : a collection of files or documents that are stored together on a computer

fol-de-rol /ˈfɑːldəˌrɑːl/ *noun* [noncount] chiefly US, informal + old-fashioned : foolish language, behavior, or ideas : NON-SENSE • I wish we could just discuss these questions without having to go through all the *folderol* of a formal meeting.

fold-ing /ˈfoʊldɪŋ/ *adj*, always used before a noun : able to be folded into a smaller shape : designed to be folded • *folding* chairs • a *folding* door

folding money *noun* [noncount] informal : PAPER MONEY • He always carries a lot of *folding money*.

fold-out /ˈfoʊldˌaʊt/ *noun*, pl -outs [count] : a large folded page in a book or magazine • The book includes special maps in the form of *foldouts*. • The book includes *foldout* maps.

fo-li-age /ˈfoʊlijdʒ/ *noun* [noncount] : the leaves of a plant or of many plants • a tree with pretty *foliage* • the thick green *foliage* of the jungle • colorful autumn *foliage*

¹folk /ˈfoʊk/ noun

1 *folks* [plural] **a** chiefly US, informal : people in general • *Folks* say that house is haunted. • Some *folks* think the law should be changed. **b** — used to talk to a group of people in a friendly and informal way • Do you *folks* need any help? • That's all for today, *folks*—see you tomorrow!

2 or chiefly US *folks* [plural] informal : a certain kind of people • a home for old *folks* • He doesn't much care for city *folk*. [=people who live in a city] • country *folk* • the distinctive speech of *folks* from the South

3 *folks* [plural] chiefly US, informal : family members • I'll be spending the holidays with my *folks*.; especially : PARENTS • His *folks* gave him everything a kid could want.

4 [noncount] : FOLK MUSIC • My favorite kind of music is *folk*.

²folk *adj*, always used before a noun : of or relating to the common people of a country or region • *folk* customs • *folk* art • a *folk* dance • a *folk* remedy

folk hero *noun*, pl ~ -roes [count] : a person who is greatly admired by many people of a particular kind or in a particular place • He has become a *folk hero* in his home state because of the work he has done to help poor children.

folk-lore /ˈfoʊkˌlɔːr/ noun [noncount]

1 : traditional customs, beliefs, stories, and sayings • The coyote appears in a great deal of Native American *folklore*. • the rich *folklore* of Louisiana

2 : ideas or stories that are not true but that many people have heard or read • He can't tell the difference between fact and *folklore*.

— **folk-lor-ist** /ˈfoʊkˌlɔːrɪst/ *noun*, pl -ists [count] • a *folklorist* who has collected many folktales

folk music *noun* [noncount] : the traditional music of the people in a country or region • Irish *folk music*; also : a type of popular music that is based on traditional music and that does not use electric instruments

folk-sing-er /ˈfoʊkˌsɪŋə/ *noun*, pl -ers [count] : a person who sings folk songs

folk song *noun*, pl ~ songs [count] : a song created by the people of a country or region : a song sung in folk music

folksy /ˈfoʊksi/ *adj* **folks-i-er**; -est informal : friendly or informal in manner or style • a *folksy* politician • an enter-

tainer with a *folksy* manner • *folksy* charm

— **folks-i-ness** /ˈfoʊksɪnəs/ *noun* [noncount]

folk-tale /ˈfoʊkˌteɪl/ *noun*, pl -tales [count] : a traditional story • West African *folktales* that continue to be passed from generation to generation through storytelling

fol-li-cle /ˈfɑːlɪkəl/ *noun*, pl -li-cles [count] : a tiny hole in the skin from which a hair grows

fol-low /ˈfɑːlou/ verb -lows; -lowed; -low-ing

1 a : to go or come after or behind (someone or something) [+ *obj*] She *followed* us into the kitchen. • The dog *followed* the children home. • The exit is right this way. Just *follow* me. [no *obj*] The children went home and the dog *followed* behind. • If one sheep goes through the gate, the rest will *follow*. **b** [+ *obj*] : to go after or behind (someone) secretly and watch to find out what happens • He hired a private detective to *follow* his wife everywhere. [=to secretly find out where she went and what she did] • *follow* a suspect • I think that someone is *following* us. = I think we're being *followed*.

2 a : to come after (something) in time or place or as part of a series [+ *obj*] Spring *follows* winter. = Winter is *followed* by spring. • The number 15 *follows* 14. • Her accident was *followed* by a long period of recovery. [no *obj*] First came the student speeches, and the presentation of awards *followed*. • (formal) The war ended. *There followed* [=then came; then there was] a long period of rebuilding. **b** [+ *obj*] : to have or do something after (something else) — + *with* • I *followed* my dinner *with* a liqueur. [=I had a liqueur after dinner] • The actor *followed* his success as Othello *with* a triumph as Macbeth.

3 a : to happen after and as a result of (something) [+ *obj*] Rioting *followed* the unjust verdict. [no *obj*] If you work hard, success will/must surely *follow*. **b** [no *obj*] : to be true or seem to be true because of something • From the evidence given, several conclusions *follow*. = Several conclusions *follow* from the evidence given. [=we can make several conclusions based on the evidence given] — often + *that* • From the evidence given, it *follows that* the accused is guilty. • Just because he's done some bad things, does/must it *follow that* he's a bad person? [=does it mean that he is a bad person?]

4 [+ *obj*] **a** : to be guided by (something) • You should *follow* [=obey] your conscience. • *follow* your instincts • *follow* my advice • She must learn to *follow* instructions. • We must *follow* the evidence wherever it leads. • You should *follow her example*. = You should *follow* the example she set. [=you should do what she did] **b** : to do the same thing as (someone) • She *followed* her father (by going) into medicine. = She *followed* her father by becoming a doctor.

5 [+ *obj*] : to move forward on (a road, a path, etc.) • *Follow* that path, and you will come to a log cabin. • You should *follow* the main highway until you see signs for the stadium. — often used figuratively • His friends all went to college, but he chose to *follow* a different path. [=to do something different] • Do recessions *follow* a predictable cycle/pattern?

6 [+ *obj*] of a road, path, etc. : to be on or next to (something) for a distance • The path *follows* the river pretty closely. • The road *follows* the curve of the hill.

7 [+ *obj*] **a** : to keep your eyes or attention on (something) • *Follow* the bouncing ball. **b** : to give close attention to what happens in (something) • He *followed* her career with interest. • *follow* football • The book *follows* his political career from its humble beginnings to his election as president. **c** *Brit* : to be a fan of (a team) : SUPPORT • He *follows* Manchester United.

8 : to understand the sense or logic of (something or someone) [+ *obj*] I found it hard to *follow* the twists and turns of the movie's complicated plot. • I'm sorry—I don't *follow* your argument/reasoning. = I'm sorry—I don't *follow* you. [=I don't understand you] [no *obj*] I'm sorry—I don't *follow*. [=I don't understand]

a hard/tough act to follow : someone or something that has been so successful that it is very difficult for the person or thing coming next to be as good • Yesterday's thrilling victory will be *a tough act to follow*.

as follows — used to introduce a list, a statement, instructions, etc. • The names of the finalists are *as follows*: Mary, James, and George. • Proceed *as follows*: go straight ahead to Martin Street and then turn left.

follow around or Brit follow about [phrasal verb] *follow* (someone) around/about : to go wherever (someone) goes •

The little boy *followed* his mother *around* all day.

follow in someone's footsteps see FOOTSTEP

follow someone's lead see ²LEAD

follow suit **1** in card games : to play a card of the same suit

(such as hearts or spades) as the card that was played just before • Jane played a spade, and Roger *followed suit*. **2** : to do the same thing that someone else has just done • His brother went to medical school, and he *followed suit*. • After one airline lowers their fares, the other airlines usually *follow suit*.

follow the path/line of least resistance see RESISTANCE

follow through [phrasal verb] **1 follow through or follow (something) through** : to complete an activity or process that has been started • He always starts the school year off studying and working hard, but he doesn't *follow through*. [=he doesn't continue to study and work hard] • He doesn't *follow his good intentions through*. [=although he makes plans to do things, he doesn't actually do them] — often + *on* or *with* • He doesn't *follow through on* his good intentions. • We feared they would *follow through on/with* their threat. [=we feared that they would do what they threatened to do] **2 sports** : to keep your arms, legs, etc., moving after you hit or kick a ball : to complete a stroke or swing • You should *follow through* on your backhand. • Don't forget to *follow through* when you putt. — see also FOLLOW-THROUGH

follow up [phrasal verb] **1 follow up (something) or follow (something) up or follow up** : to follow (something) with something similar, related, or additional — + *with* or *by* • He *followed up* his early findings *with* another study. • After you submit your job application, you should *follow it up by* making a phone call. • Her first book was a big success, and she *followed up with* another best seller. **2 follow up (something) or follow (something) up or follow up or chiefly US follow up on (something)** **a** : to try to get more information about (something) • The police *followed up (on)* the leads. • The references in the book were too vague to *follow up*. **b** : to do something in response to (something) : to take appropriate action about (something) • Police *followed up* the complaints with several arrests. • He complained several times, but the police never *followed up*. • He says that the police failed to *follow up on* his complaints. — see also FOLLOW-UP

follow your nose informal **1** : to go in a straight or obvious course • Just *follow your nose* until you get there; you can't miss it. **2** : to proceed without a definite plan : to do what seems right or best without careful planning • You don't need my advice—just *follow your nose*. **3** : to go toward the place where a smell is coming from • I *followed my nose* to the kitchen, where dinner was cooking.

fol·low·er /'fɑ:ləwə/ noun, pl -ers [count]

1 a : someone who supports and is guided by another person or by a group, religion, etc. • the candidate's loyal/faithful *followers* • The party drew most of its *followers* from among young people. • *followers* of Christianity/Islam **b** : a person who likes and admires (someone or something) very much : FAN • The band has a large group of *followers*. **2** : someone who does what other people say to do • He had a reputation of being a *follower*, not a leader.

¹fol·low·ing /'fɑ:ləwɪŋ/ adj

1 : coming next • She found a good job, and moved into a new house the *following* year. • We met again the *following* day. — opposite PRECEDING, PREVIOUS **2** : listed or shown next • Trains will leave at the *following* times: 2 p.m., 4 p.m., and 8 p.m. • If you have questions or comments, please write to us at the *following* address: P.O. Box 234, . . .

²following noun, pl -ings [count] : a group of followers or fans • The band has a large and devoted *following* in Japan. • The movement quickly gained/attracted/built a *following* among young people.

³following prep : immediately after (something) • *Following* the lecture, refreshments were served. • We were tired for a few days *following* our trip.

⁴following pronoun

the following : the following one or ones — used to introduce a list, a quotation, etc. • The finalists are *the following*: Mary, James, and George. = *The following* are the finalists: Mary, James, and George. • Our address is *the following* [=as follows]: P.O. Box 234, . . . • *The following* are the times of departing trains: 2 p.m., 4 p.m., and 8 p.m.

fol·low·on /'fɑ:lou,ɑ:n/ noun, pl -ons [count] : something that happens or is done to continue or add to something previous — usually singular • The new project is a natural *follow-on* to last year's success.

— **follow-on** adj, always used before a noun • a *follow-on* product

follow-the-leader (US) or Brit follow-my-leader noun [noncount] : a children's game in which everyone follows and does what the child who is chosen to be the leader does

fol·low-through /'fɑ:lou,θru:/ noun, pl -throughs

1 [count] sports : the part of a stroke, swing, or kick that happens after a ball is hit • He has a good backswing, but he's a little weak on the *follow-through*.

2 [singular] : the act of completing an action or process • He makes a lot of promises, but there's no *follow-through*. [=he does not do what he promises to do] — see also *follow through* at FOLLOW

fol·low-up /'fɑ:lou,ʌp/ noun, pl -ups [count] : something that continues or completes a process or activity • A week after the story broke, the newspaper printed a *follow-up*. • As a *follow-up* to last week's show, tonight we'll show the other side of the story. — see also *follow up* at FOLLOW

— **follow-up** adj, always used before a noun • After you submit your job application, you should make a *follow-up* phone call. • He had a *follow-up* appointment a week after his surgery.

fol·ly /'fɑ:li/ noun, pl -lies

1 [noncount] a : the lack of good sense or judgment : FOOLISHNESS • the *folly* of driving fast on steep, winding roads • his *folly* in thinking that he would not be noticed • The *folly* of such an action should be apparent to everyone. **b** : a foolish act or idea : foolish behavior [noncount] Their pranks were just youthful *folly*. [=the kinds of foolish things that young people often do] [count] engaging in youthful *follies* • the *follies* of the modern world

2 [count] : a very unusual or fancy building that was built in a garden for decoration or amusement in the past

3 follies [plural] chiefly US : a large public show or entertainment with many performers • the famous Ziegfeld *Follies* of the 1920s • ice *follies* [=a show with ice-skaters skating to music]

fo·ment /'fou,ment/ verb -ments; -ment-ed; -ment-ing [+ obj] formal : to cause or try to cause the growth or development of (something bad or harmful) : INCITE • *foment* rebellion/war/revolution • He was accused of *fomenting* violence.

— **fo·ment·er** noun, pl -ers [count]

fond /'fɑ:nd/ adj fond·er; -est

1 : feeling or showing love or friendship : AFFECTIONATE • a *fond* admirer • She still has *fond* feelings for him. • She has *fond* [=cherished, warm] memories of their time together. • a *fond* smile • Absence makes the heart grow *fonder*. • He wished them a *fond* farewell.

2 : strongly felt • their *fondest* wishes • the *fond* hope that the situation would change

fond of : having a liking for or love of (someone or something) • She is still *fond of* him. [=she still likes/loves him] • She grew quite *fond of* him. • I'm *fond of* skiing. [=I like to ski; I enjoy skiing] • She's *fond of* asking silly questions. [=she asks a lot of silly questions]

— **fond·ness** /'fɑ:ndnəs/ noun [noncount] his parents' *fondness* [=affection] for each other [singular] a *fondness* [=liking] for fine wine

fon·dle /'fɑ:ndl/ verb fon·dles; fon·dled; fon·dling [+ obj]

1 : to touch or handle (something) in a gentle way • *fondle* a coin • She *fondled* [=caressed] the dog's ear.

2 : to touch (someone) in a sexual way • She claims that her boss tried to *fondle* her at the office Christmas party.

fond·ly /'fɑ:ndli/ adv

1 : in a loving way • She speaks *fondly* [=affectionately] of you. • She remembers their time together *fondly*.

2 : in a hopeful but not reasonable way • He *fondly* [=foolishly] imagines that his plan will be a success.

fon·due /fan'du:, Brit 'fɒn,dju:/ noun, pl -dues : a dish that people prepare for themselves at the table by putting small pieces of food (such as bread, meat, or fruit) in a hot liquid (such as melted and flavored cheese or melted chocolate) [noncount] dipped his bread into the (cheese) *fondue* [count] dip fruit in melted chocolate to have a chocolate *fondue*

¹font /'fɑ:nt/ noun, pl fonts [count]

1 religion : a container that holds the water which is used for baptizing a child

2 US : a source from which something comes : FOUNT • a *font* of knowledge/wisdom

— compare **²FONT**

font

serif type

sans serif type

English — roman — English

English — italic — English

English — bold — English

²**font** *noun*, *pl* **fonts** [count] *technical* : a set of letters, numbers, and punctuation marks that are all one size and style • The book's small *font* was difficult to read. • a boldface *font* — called also (Brit) *fount* — compare ¹FONT

food /'fu:d/ *noun*, *pl* **foods**

Ta [noncount] : the things that people and animals eat • a farmer who grows his own *food* • drought victims who don't have enough *food* to eat • She gave *food* and drink to the hungry travelers. • good/great/delicious *food* **b** : a particular kind of food [noncount] Italian *food* • cat *food* • frozen *food* • What is your favorite *food*? [count] an important *food* • fruits, vegetables, and other healthy *foods* • frozen *foods* — see also FAST FOOD, HEALTH FOOD, JUNK FOOD, WHOLE FOOD

2 [noncount] : substances taken in by plants and used for growth • plant *food*

food for thought : something that should be thought about or considered carefully • The unexpected test results have given us *food for thought*.

food bank *noun*, *pl* ~ **banks** [count] *US* : a place like a store that has free food for poor people

food chain *noun*, *pl* ~ **chains** [count] : a series of types of living things in which each one uses the next lower member of the series as a source of food — usually used with *the* • Sharks eat fish that are lower in *the food chain*. • animals that are at the top/bottom of *the food chain* — often used figuratively • directors and producers at the top of *the Hollywood food chain* [=very powerful and successful directors and producers] • *the corporate food chain*

food court *noun*, *pl* ~ **courts** [count] : an area within a building (such as a shopping mall) where there are many small restaurants that share a large area of tables for their customers

food·ie /'fu:di/ *noun*, *pl* **-ies** [count] *informal* : a person who enjoys and cares about food very much • The restaurant is very popular among *foodies*.

food poisoning *noun* [noncount] : sickness caused by bacteria or chemicals in food

food processor *noun*, *pl* ~ **-sors** [count] : an electric kitchen device that is used for cutting and mixing food — see picture at KITCHEN

food stamp *noun*, *pl* ~ **stamps** [count] *US* : a small document that is given by the government to poor people and that can be used to buy food

food·stuff /'fu:d,stʌf/ *noun*, *pl* **-stuffs** [count] *technical* : a substance that is used as food • grain and other *foodstuffs* [=foods]

¹**fool** /'fu:l/ *noun*, *pl* **fools** [count]

T : a person who lacks good sense or judgment : a stupid or silly person • those *fools* who ride motorcycles without wearing helmets • Only a *fool* would ask such a silly question. • You'd be a *fool* to believe what he tells you. • You're making yourself look like a *fool*. • A *fool* and his money are soon parted. [=a foolish person spends money too quickly on unimportant things] • Any *fool* can see [=anyone can see] that he's lying. • I never thought you'd be *fool enough* to believe him. = I never thought you'd be enough of a *fool* to believe him. • (*informal*) Only that *fool of a* brother [=that foolish brother] of yours would ask such a silly question! • (*informal*) Some (damn/damned) *fool of a* driver kept trying to pass me! • *Fools rush in (where angels fear to tread)*. [=it is foolish to take action if you do not know much about what you are doing] • (*Brit, informal*) (*The*) *more fool you* if you believe him. = (*The*) *more fool you* for believing him. [=you would be a fool to believe him] • (*Brit, informal*) *More fool him* for trusting her. • *There's no fool like an old fool*. [=a foolish old person is especially foolish because an old person should have learned from experience not to make the kind of mistakes a young person makes] ♡ A smart or clever person can be described as *no fool* or as *nobody's fool*. • He may

not look very smart, but he's *no fool*. • Don't try to trick her—she's *nobody's fool*.

2 *US, informal* : a person who enjoys something very much • He's a dancing *fool*. [=he loves to dance] • He's a *fool for* candy. [=he loves to eat candy]

3 *chiefly Brit* : a dessert made with cooked fruit and cream or a thick sauce • a strawberry *fool*

4 : JESTER

act/play the fool : to behave in a silly or foolish way • If you keep *playing the fool* by asking silly questions, people won't take you seriously.

make a fool of yourself : to behave in a very foolish or silly way • He got drunk at the party and *made a fool of himself*. • He's *making a fool of himself* over that woman.

make a fool (out) of : to cause (someone) to look stupid or foolish • She *made a fool of me* by insulting me in front of my friends.

— see also APRIL FOOLS' DAY

²**fool** *verb* **fools; fooled; fooling**

T [no obj] : to speak or act in a way that is not serious : JOKE, KID • I was only *fooling*. • When she first told us that she was getting married, we thought she was *fooling*.

2 [+ obj] : to make (someone) believe something that is not true : to trick (someone) • His disguise didn't *fool* anybody. • "He's an expert in his field." "Well, you sure *could have fooled me!*" [=I doubt that he is really an expert in his field] • He really *had me fooled*. • Stop *fooling yourself*—she doesn't really love you. — often + *into* • He *fooled me into* thinking I could trust him. • We *were fooled into* thinking there was no danger. — sometimes used figuratively • *fool the eye into* seeing colors that aren't there

fool around also *Brit fool about* [*phrasal verb*] *informal* **1** : to do things that are not useful or serious : to waste time

• We *fooled around* [=messed around] outdoors for a while, but then went inside to get some work done. • He decided it was time to stop *fooling around* and settle down and get married. • Wow, he's already done everything he promised. He *doesn't fool around*, does he? [=he gets things done quickly] **2** : to have sex with someone who is not your husband, wife, or regular partner • His wife discovered that he was *fooling around* (on her). [=that he was having sex with another woman] — often + *with* • His wife discovered that he was *fooling around with* his secretary. **3** *fool around/about with (something)* **a** : to use or do (something) in a way that is not very serious • I'm not really a painter; I just like to *fool around with* paints. **b** : to handle or play with (something) in a careless or foolish way • Stop *fooling* [=fiddling, messing] *around with* the stereo. • Don't *fool around with* that gun.

fool with [*phrasal verb*] *informal* **1** *fool with (something)* **a** : to handle or play with (something) in a careless way : to fool around with (something) • Don't *fool with* [=mess with] that gun. **b** : to deal with or be involved with (something that causes or that could cause trouble) • The company doesn't want to *fool with* [=mess with, be bothered with] small distributors. **2** *fool with (someone)* : to deal with (someone) in a way that may cause anger or violence • I wouldn't want to *fool with* [=mess with] that guy.

³**fool** *adj*, always used before a noun, *US, informal* : FOOLISH • The dog was barking its *fool* head off. • Some *fool* driver kept trying to pass me!

fool·ery /'fu:ləri/ *noun* [noncount] *old-fashioned* : foolish or silly behavior • an amusing bit of *foolery*

fool·har·dy /'fu:l,haədi/ *adj* [more ~; most ~] : foolishly doing things that are too dangerous or risky • a *foolhardy* explorer • *foolhardy* investors

— **fool·har·di·ness** /'fu:l,haədinas/ *noun* [noncount]

fool·ish /'fu:liʃ/ *adj* [more ~; most ~] : having or showing a lack of good sense or judgment : STUPID, SILLY • a *foolish* decision/mistake • He was wearing a *foolish* grin. • She's been taking *foolish* risks. • Those flashy clothes make her look *foolish*. • She must feel *foolish* wearing those flashy clothes. • I never thought you'd be *foolish* enough to believe him.

— **fool·ish·ly** *adv* • He *foolishly* ignored his parents' advice.

— **fool·ish·ness** *noun* [noncount]

fool·proof /'fu:l,pru:f/ *adj* [more ~; most ~] : done, made, or planned so well that nothing can go wrong • *foolproof* directions • a *foolproof* plan • DNA fingerprinting gives police a virtually *foolproof* way to link a suspect to a crime scene.

fool's gold *noun* [noncount] : a mineral that looks like gold

fool's paradise *noun* [singular] : a state of happiness that is based on mistaken beliefs or false ideas • We are headed

for economic trouble, and anyone who thinks otherwise is living in a *fool's paradise*.

foos-ball /'fu:z,bɑ:l/ *noun* [noncount]: a table game resembling soccer in which the ball is moved by turning rods to which small figures of players are attached — called also (US) *table soccer*, (Brit) *table football*

¹foot /'fot/ *noun*, *pl* **feet** /'fi:t/

1 [count]: the part of the leg on which an animal or person stands and moves: the part of the leg below the ankle • He was wearing boots on his *feet*. • tracks made by the *feet* of a bird • standing on one *foot* • The people in the crowd began to stamp their *feet*. • She was walking around the house in (her) bare *feet*. [=she was not wearing any shoes or socks] • She was *in her stockings/stocking feet*. [=she was wearing socks but no shoes] • It's a long hike, but we'll get there if we just keep *putting one foot in front of the other*. [=if we just keep walking] • *Wipe your feet* [=rub the bottoms of your shoes on the doormat] when you come in. — often used before another noun • a *foot pump* [=a pump that is operated by being pressed with the foot] • a *foot brake* • an area that gets a lot of *foot traffic* [=an area where many people walk] — see also ATHLETE'S FOOT, CLUBFOOT, COLD FEET, FLAT FOOT

2 *pl* also **foot** [count]: a unit of measurement equal to 1/3 yard (0.3048 meter) or 12 inches • a 10-*foot* pole = a pole 10 *feet* long • He's six *feet* tall. • He's six *feet*, three inches tall. = He's six *foot* three. • a plant that grows three *feet* tall = a three-*foot*-tall plant

3 [singular] **a**: the lowest part of something: BOTTOM • They camped at the *foot* of the mountain. • at the *foot* of the stairs **b**: the end of something that is opposite to the end that is called the head • the *foot* of the bed [=the end where your feet are when you are lying on the bed] • the *foot* of the table

4 [count]: a basic unit of rhythm in a line of poetry made up of a group of syllables that are accented in a certain way • Each line of the poem has five *feet*.

at someone's feet: close to someone's feet • His dog was lying *at his feet*. — sometimes used figuratively • He was young and fearless, and he felt the world was *at his feet*. [=felt that he could do great things in the world] • She claimed that men fell *at her feet*. [=that men often fell in love with her]

be run/rushed off your feet *Brit*: to be very busy • We *are run off our feet* trying to fill orders.

drag your feet see ¹DRAG

feet of clay ✧ A person who was admired in the past but who has serious faults or flaws can be described as having *feet of clay*. • a former political leader who turned out to have *feet of clay*

find your feet: to start to be comfortable in a new situation: to begin to be confident or successful • They quickly *found their feet* in their adopted country. • I was away for a long time, so it will take me a while to *find my feet* again.

get/start off on the right foot: to begin a relationship well • I want to *get off on the right foot* with your parents.

get/start off on the wrong foot: to begin a relationship badly • They *got off on the wrong foot* when they first met and they've disliked each other ever since.

get your feet wet see ¹WET

get your foot in the door: to make the first step toward a goal by gaining entry into an organization, a career, etc. • He took a job as a secretary to *get his foot in the door*.

hand and foot see ¹HAND

have one foot in the grave: to be close to dying because of old age or illness

have/keep your feet on the ground: to be a sensible and practical person • Even after she became famous, she always *kept her feet on the ground*.

let the grass grow under your feet see ¹GRASS

light on your feet see ⁴LIGHT

my foot *informal* + *somewhat old-fashioned* — used to express surprise or disagreement • Fair, *my foot*! That contest wasn't fair!

off your feet: not in a standing position: in or into a sitting or lying position • The blow knocked me *off my feet*. • The doctor suggested that he stay *off his feet* [=that he avoid standing and walking] as much as possible.

on foot: by walking • The refugees traveled *on foot*.

on your feet **1**: in a standing position • I've been *on my feet* all day. • He jumped over the wall and landed *on his feet*. • They say that no matter how a cat falls, it always manages to land *on its feet*. • By the end of the day the

workers were *dead on their feet*. [=very tired but still standing, working, etc.] ✧ In figurative use, to *land on your feet* or *Brit fall on your feet* is to be lucky and be in good condition or in a good situation after having a bad or difficult experience. • He lost his job but *landed on his feet* when he was hired by another company just a few days later. **2**: in a good position or condition • The business is finally/back *on its feet*. **3**: in a healthy condition after an illness or injury • She should be out of the hospital and (back) *on her feet* again in a couple of weeks. **4**: quickly and while actively doing something • Good debaters can think *on their feet*.

put a foot wrong: to make a mistake • He never *put a foot wrong* during the campaign.

put your best foot forward **1** *US*: to behave very well so that someone will like you and approve of you • When I visited my girlfriend's parents I tried to be very polite and *put my best foot forward*. **2** *Brit*: to try as hard as possible to do something difficult • I've got to *put my best foot forward* [=do my best] to meet this deadline.

put your feet up *informal*: to sit and relax: to not work or be active • I'm going to go home and *put my feet up*.

put your foot down **1**: to deal with someone in a harsh or strict way • When my son broke his curfew for the third time, I knew it was time to *put my foot down*. **2** *Brit*: to make a car go faster

put your foot in your mouth (*chiefly US*) or **put your foot in it** *informal*: to say something that causes someone to be embarrassed, upset, or hurt especially when you did not expect that reaction • I really *put my foot in it* when I asked her about her job. I didn't know she'd just been fired.

set foot in: to enter (a place) • That was the last time she ever *set foot in* this house.

set foot on: to walk on (something) • Neil Armstrong was the first man to *set foot on* the surface of the moon.

shoot yourself in the foot see ¹SHOOT

stand on your own two feet: to support yourself without help from other people • You can't live with your parents forever. It's time to get a place of your own and learn to *stand on your own two feet*.

sweep (someone) off his/her feet see ¹SWEEP

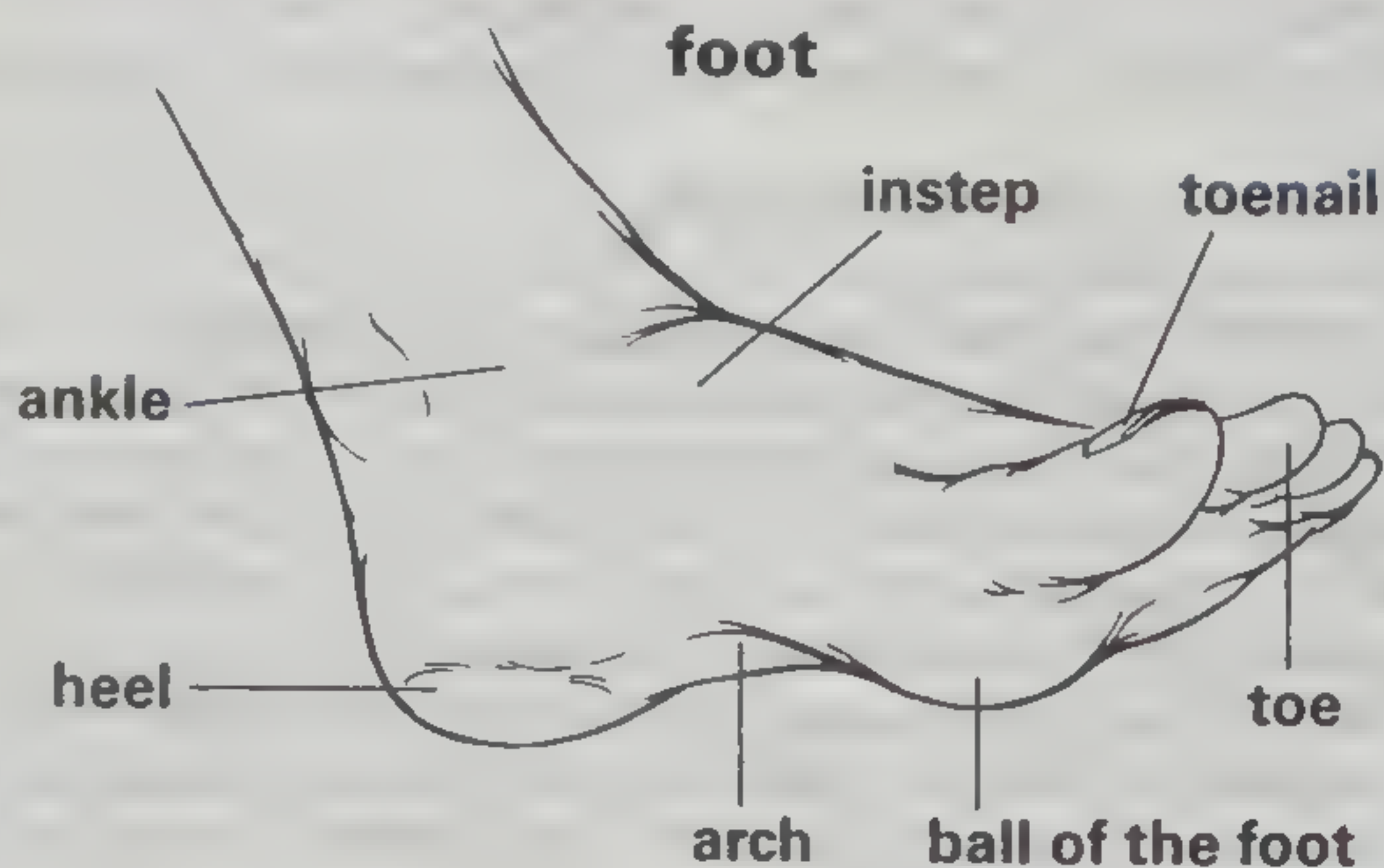
the shoe is on the other foot or **Brit the boot is on the other foot** — used to say that a situation has changed to the opposite of what it was before • I used to boss my little sister around. Now *the shoe is on the other foot*. [=now she bosses me around] • *The shoe is on the other foot* and he is the one asking for help this time.

to your feet: to a standing position • I got/rose *to my feet* [=I stood up] and left. • His inspirational speech brought the crowd *to its feet*. • Everyone in the courtroom came *to their feet* when the judge entered.

two left feet ✧ A person who dances badly can be described as having *two left feet*. • My wife is a good dancer, but I've got *two left feet*.

under your feet *chiefly Brit*: in the way: UNDERFOOT • I can't get any work done with those kids *under my feet*.

vote with your feet see ¹VOTE



²foot *verb* **foots**; **foot-ed**; **foot-ing**

foot the bill: to pay for something • His parents *footed the bill* for his college education. • It was a business lunch, so the company is *footing the bill*.

foot-age /'fʊtɪdʒ/ *noun* [noncount]

1: scenes or action recorded on film or video • Some disturbing *footage* of the war was shown on the evening news.

2: the size of something measured in feet • calculating the square *footage* of the room [=calculating the size of the room in square feet]

foot-and-mouth disease *noun* [noncount]: a serious

and often deadly disease of animals (such as cows and sheep)

foot-ball /'fʊt,bɔ:l/ *noun*, *pl* -balls

1 [*noncount*] : any one of several games in which two teams try to get a ball to the goals at each end of a large field: such as **a** *US* : an American game that is played between two teams of 11 players each and in which the ball is moved forward by running or passing • **He played a lot of football in high school and college.** **b** : a similar Canadian game between two teams of 12 players each **c** *Brit* : SOCCER **d** *Brit* : RUGBY

2 [*count*] : a ball filled with air that is used in the game of football — see picture at BALL

political football : an issue that politicians argue about and try to use for their advantage • **This issue is too important to be treated as a political football.**

foot-ball-er /'fʊt,bɔ:lə/ *noun*, *pl* -ers [*count*] *chiefly* *Brit* : a person who plays soccer ✧ In U.S. English, a person who plays soccer is usually called a *soccer player*. A person who plays American football is called a *football player*.

footboard /'fʊt,bɔ:d/ *noun*, *pl* -boards [*count*] : an upright board at the foot of a bed

foot-bridge /'fʊt,bri:dʒ/ *noun*, *pl* -bridg-es [*count*] : a bridge for people who are walking • **We built a wooden foot-bridge over the creek.**

foot-drag-ging /'fʊt,dʒæŋ/ *noun* [*noncount*] : failure to do something quickly because you do not want to do it • **bureaucrats criticized for foot-dragging on important issues**

foot-ed /'fʊtəd/ *adj* : having a foot or feet of a specified kind or number — usually used in combination • **a four-footed animal** • **flat-footed** • **fleet-footed** — see also SUREFOOTED

foot-er /'fʊtə/ *noun*, *pl* -ers [*count*]

1 : someone or something that is a specified number of feet tall or long — usually used in combination • **two players on the team who are seven-footers** • **The putt was a six-footer.** [=a six-foot putt]

2 : a word, phrase, etc., that is placed at the bottom of every page of a document — compare HEADER

foot-fall /'fʊt,fɔ:l/ *noun*, *pl* -falls [*count*] *literary* : the sound of a footstep • **She heard footfalls echoing in the hall.**

foot fault *noun*, *pl* ~ faults [*count*] *tennis* : the mistake of not keeping your feet behind the baseline when you serve

foot-gear /'fʊt,giə/ *noun* [*noncount*] : FOOTWEAR • **Hikers need to wear appropriate footgear.**

foot-hill /'fʊt,hɪl/ *noun*, *pl* -hills [*count*] : a hill next to a higher mountain or group of mountains — usually plural • **the foothills of the Rockies**

foot-hold /'fʊt,həʊld/ *noun*, *pl* -holds [*count*]

1 : a place where your foot may be placed when you are climbing a cliff, a mountain, etc. — compare TOEHOLD 1

2 : a position that makes it possible to begin an activity or effort • **The army gained a foothold on the island.** • **The company has secured a foothold in the market.**

foot-ie (*Brit*) or **Australia footy** /'fʊti/ *noun* [*noncount*] *informal* : SOCCER

foot-ing /'fʊtɪŋ/ *noun*

1 [*singular*] **a** : the ability of your feet to stay where you put them as you walk, run, etc. • **The loose stones made it difficult for me to maintain/keep my footing.** [=to avoid slipping or falling] • **He lost his footing and fell down the slope.** **b** : the condition of the ground that makes it easy or hard for your feet to stay where you put them as you walk or run • **Be careful. The footing is slippery there.**

2 [*singular*] **a** — used to describe the kind of relationship that exists between people, countries, etc.; usually used with *on* • **a nation that is on a friendly footing with its neighbors** [=a nation that has friendly relations with its neighbors] • **They all started on an equal footing (with one another).** = **They all started on the same footing.** [=none of them had an advantage when they started] **b** : the base or foundation on which something is established : BASIS — usually used with *on* • **put the business on a firm financial footing**

3 [*count*] : the base or foundation on which a structure is built — usually plural • **the footings of a building/bridge** • **pour concrete footings for a garage**

foot-lights /'fʊt,lɑ:ts/ *noun* [*plural*] : a row of lights across the front of a stage floor that shine on the performers

foot-lock-er /'fʊt,lɔ:kə/ *noun*, *pl* -ers [*count*] *US* : a strong box that is kept at the foot of a soldier's bed and that is used for storing personal property

foot-loose /'fʊt,lʊ:s/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : able to act or move freely : not held back by ties to other people • **footloose**

bachelors • **When she was 20, she was footloose and fancy-free, with no family or serious career to tie her down.**

foot-man /'fʊtmən/ *noun*, *pl* -men /-mən/ [*count*] : a male servant who lets visitors into a house and serves food at the dinner table

foot-note /'fʊt,nəʊt/ *noun*, *pl* -notes [*count*]

1 : a note with added information that is placed below the text on a printed page

2 : someone or something that is remembered or regarded as a minor or unimportant part of an event, work, etc. • **a movement now regarded as a footnote to history**

— **foot-not-ed** /'fʊt,nəʊtəd/ *adj* • **The book is heavily foot-noted.** [=the book includes many footnotes]

foot-path /'fʊt,pæθ, *Brit* 'fʊt,pɑ:θ/ *noun*, *pl* -paths [*count*]

1 : a narrow path that people walk on • **a footpath winding through the garden**

2 *Brit* : SIDEWALK

foot-print /'fʊt,prɪnt/ *noun*, *pl* -prints [*count*]

1 : a track or mark left by a foot or shoe • **The child left her tiny footprints in the snow.** • **He walked into the kitchen with his boots on, making/leaving muddy footprints on the floor.**

2 : the amount of space that is covered on a surface by something (such as a computer) • **The new model has a smaller footprint than the older model.**

foot-race /'fʊt,reɪs/ *noun*, *pl* -rac-es [*count*] : a running race

foot-rest /'fʊt,rest/ *noun*, *pl* -rests [*count*] : something that you put your feet on to raise them off the floor or ground when you are sitting • **a recliner chair with a padded footrest attached**

foot-sie *also* *US* **foot-sy** /'fʊtsi/ *noun*

play footsie *informal* 1 : to secretly touch another person's foot with your own foot as a way of showing sexual attraction • **He was playing footsie with her under the dining room table.** 2 : to secretly work with or help someone in a way that is dishonest or wrong • **world leaders playing footsie with terrorists**

foot soldier *noun*, *pl* ~ -diers [*count*]

1 : a soldier who marches and fights on foot : INFANTRY-MAN

2 : a person who does active and difficult work for an organization or cause • **foot soldiers in the war against drugs**

foot-sore /'fʊt,səʊ/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : having feet that are sore from walking • **tired and footsore soldiers**

foot-step /'fʊt,step/ *noun*, *pl* -steps [*count*]

1 : a movement made by your foot as you walk or run : STEP • **She slowly took one footstep toward the frightened animal.**

2 : the distance covered by a step : PACE • **It's five footsteps from the bedroom to the bathroom.**

3 : the sound of a foot making a step — usually plural • **We could hear the approaching footsteps.**

follow in someone's footsteps : to do the same things that another person has done before • **She followed in her father's footsteps by becoming a doctor.**

foot-stool /'fʊt,stu:l/ *noun*, *pl* -stools [*count*] : a low, small piece of furniture that you can put your feet on when you are sitting

footsy *variant spelling of* FOOTSIE

foot-wear /'fʊt,weə/ *noun* [*noncount*] : things (such as shoes and boots) that are worn on your feet • **sneakers, loafers, and other casual footwear**

foot-work /'fʊt,wɜ:k/ *noun* [*noncount*]

1 : the activity of moving or walking from place to place • **The investigation required a lot of footwork.**

2 : movement of the feet in a sport, dance, etc. • **He used quick footwork to dodge his opponent.** • **The tango involves some fancy footwork.**

3 : active and skillful movement or activity to achieve a goal • **He knows that getting enough votes for the proposal is going to require some fancy political footwork.**

footy *Australia spelling of* FOOTIE

fop /'fɔ:p/ *noun*, *pl* fops [*count*] *old-fashioned* + *disapproving* : a man who cares too much about how he looks or dresses • **He's an eccentric fop.**

— **fop-pish** /'fɔ:pɪʃ/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] • **foppish** fashions

for /'fɔə, fə/ *prep*

Ta — used to indicate the place someone or something is going to or toward • **He just left for the office.** • **We're heading for home.** • **When's the next train for** [=to] **London?** **b** — used to indicate the person or thing that something is sent or

given to • Are there any letters *for* me? • This present is *for* you. • She baked a cake *for* me.

2 a — used to indicate the thing that something is meant to be used with • There's a separate slot *for* out-of-town mail. • Are these the tires *for* this car? • The scenery *for* the play is beautiful. • This food is *for* the party. **b** — used to indicate the person or type of person who should use or have something • The store sells suits *for* tall men. • This is just right *for* me. • That job is not *for* me. [=that job would not suit me] • Who's the best/right person *for* the job?

3 a — used to indicate the use of something • an instrument *for* measuring speed **b** — used to indicate why something is done • She's dressing *for* dinner. • Squirrels were storing nuts *for* the winter. • He's making plans *for* retirement. • studying *for* examinations • They shouted the news *for* all to hear. [=so that all could hear it]

4 — used to indicate the person that a statement refers to • Seeing her again must be difficult *for* him. — often followed by *to* + verb • It's time *for* us *to get* busy. • *For* him *to confess* would be painful. • That's too heavy *for* you *to carry*. • (*chiefly* US) I'd hate *for* you *to miss* the show. [=I'd hate it if you missed the show]

5 a : in order to help or cause (something) • We are working *for* the good of humanity. • This is *for* your own good. [=to help you] • They believe that they are acting *for* the best. [=they are doing what is best] **b** : in order to get (something) • *For* more information, call our main office. • Everybody ran *for* safety/shelter when the shooting started.

6 : in favor of (someone or something) • Which candidate are you *for*? • You're either *for* [=with] me or you're against me. • the case *for* and the case against disarmament • I am *all for* [=completely in favor of] freedom of speech.

7 : because of (something) • He shouted *for* joy. • He wept *for* sorrow. • He was decorated *for* bravery.

8 — used to indicate the person or thing toward which feelings, thoughts, etc., are directed • He was hungry *for* praise. • They are longing *for* home. • I can't help feeling sorry *for* him. • She has a taste *for* spicy food. [=she enjoys spicy food]

9 a — used to indicate an amount of time or space • You can see *for* miles from the top of the hill. • She won't be here *for* long. • She won't get here *for* hours (yet). • We're staying there *for* the summer. **b** — used to indicate the time when something happens or will happen • The wedding is planned *for* next April. • We've invited her *for* 8 p.m. **c** — used to indicate the time that a statement refers to • That's all *for* now/today.

10 a : in place of (someone or something else) : instead of (someone or something else) • Would you go to the store *for* me? • Johnson is now batting *for* Smith. **b** : as a representative of (someone) • His lawyer will act *for* him in this affair. • I'm sure I speak *for* everyone here when I say "Well Done!" **c** : in order to help or serve (someone or something) • What else can I do *for* you? • Let me carry that *for* you. • They fought and died *for* their country.

11 : in order to cure or treat (an illness, injury, disease, etc.) • You should take something *for* that cough.

12 — used to indicate the amount or value of something • a check *for* \$100

13 — used to indicate the meaning of a word • The French word *for* "good" is "bon."

14 — used to indicate the food that is eaten at a meal • I ordered eggs *for* breakfast. • What did you have *for* dinner?

15 : as an employee, member, player, etc., of (something) • She works *for* the government. • He plays *for* Denver.

16 *chiefly* US : with the name of (someone) • He was named *for* [=after] his grandfather. [=he was given the same name as his grandfather]

17 — used to indicate the parts of a list or series • *For* one thing, we have no money; *for* another, we have no time. • People don't buy it because, *for* one thing, the price is too high.

18 — used to refer to something that is surprising or unexpected when compared to something else • He's tall *for* his age. [=he is taller than you would expect someone his age to be] • It's been very cool *for* May. • That was a good score *for* him. = *For* him, that was a good score.

19 — used to indicate the relationship between numbers or amounts that are being compared • *For* every good writer there are a dozen bad ones.

20 — used in various emphatic phrases • *I for one* will vote for him. [=I will definitely vote for him] • *For the last time*, will you stop that noise! • I wish you'd be sensible *for once*, *for all* **1** : in spite of (something) • You don't convince me

for all your clever arguments. • *For all* his education, he's pretty dumb when it comes to home repair. **2** — used in phrases like *for all someone knows* and *for all someone cares* to say that someone does not know, care, etc., about something • *For all I know*, she's still there. [=she may still be there, but I don't know] • *For all he cares*, we might as well be dead! [=he doesn't care if we're dead or not]

for ever (and ever) see EVER

for real see ¹REAL

if not for see ¹IF

in for informal : certain to experience (something) • She's *in for* a big surprise.

in for it or Brit for it informal : certain to be punished • If his parents find out what he's done, he'll be *in for it*.

in order for see ¹ORDER

not for (someone) to do something : not the right or duty of (someone) to do something • It is *not for you to say* that she can't go. [=it is not appropriate for you to say she can't go; you cannot decide that she cannot go]

once and for all see ¹ONCE

that's/there's . . . for you informal — used say that something is very good, very disappointing, or very common • They brought me the package on Christmas Day! Now *that's real service for you!* [=bringing the package on Christmas Day was excellent service] • They didn't even send me a Christmas card! *There's gratitude for you!* [=they were very ungrateful not to send me a Christmas card] • He stays up late, playing video games and listening to music. *That's a teenager for you.* [=that's how a typical teenager behaves]

2*for conj, formal + literary* : BECAUSE — used to introduce a statement that explains why a preceding statement is true • They were certainly there, *for* I saw them.

fora plural of FORUM

1*for-age* /'fɒrɪdʒ/ verb -ag-es; -aged; -ag-ing [no obj]

1 *of an animal* : to eat growing grass or other plants : GRAZE • The cows were *foraging* in the pasture.

2 : to search *for* something (such as food or supplies) • He had to *forage* *for* firewood. • squirrels *foraging for* acorns — *for-ag-er noun, pl -ers* [count]

2*forage noun* [noncount] : grasses and other plants that are eaten by animals (such as cows) • The grass serves as *forage* for livestock. • a good *forage* crop

for-ay /'fɒə,eɪ/ noun, pl -ays [count]

1 : a sudden invasion or attack : RAID • a *foray* into enemy territory

2 : an attempt to do something especially for the first time • This book marks the novelist's first *foray* into nonfiction. [=his first attempt at writing nonfiction]

3 : a short journey • We made a quick *foray* into town for some supplies.

1*for-bear* /'fɒə'beə/ verb -bears; -bore /-'bɒə/; -borne /-'bɒən/; -bear-ing formal : to choose not to do (something that you could do) : to avoid doing or saying (something) [+ obj] He carefully *forbore* any mention of her name for fear of upsetting them. • We decided to *forbear* provoking him any further. [no obj] We decided to *forbear* from provoking him any further. • He *forebore* to mention her name.

— *forbearing adj* [more ~; most ~] • He was very *forbearing* toward them. [=he treated them in a very patient way]

2*forbear variant spelling of FOREBEAR*

for-bear-ance /'fɒə'berəns/ noun [noncount] formal : the quality of someone who is patient and able to deal with a difficult person or situation without becoming angry • He showed great *forbearance* in his dealings with them.

for-bid /'fə'bid/ verb -bids; -bade /-'bæd, -'beɪd/ or -bad /-'bæd/; -bid-den /-'bɪdn/; -bid-ding [+ obj]

1 : to order (someone) not to do something • I *forbid* you to go! • She was *forbidden* by her parents to marry him. • She was *forbidden* from marrying him.

2 formal : to say that (something) is not allowed • The museum *forbids* flash photography. • The company's rules *forbid* dating among employees.

God/heaven forbid — used in speech to say that you hope a bad thing will not happen • This is the number you should call if, *God forbid*, you should get into an accident. • *Heaven forbid* that something bad should happen.

forbidden adj : not permitted or allowed • Smoking is *forbidden*. • *forbidden* foods • a *forbidden* pleasure

forbidden fruit noun, pl ~ fruits [count] : something that is attractive because it is not allowed • For dieters, dessert becomes *a/the forbidden fruit*.

forbidding adj [more ~; most ~] : not friendly or appealing

: having a frightening or threatening appearance • a harsh and *forbidding* landscape • a *forbidding* scowl
 — **for·bid·ding·ly** *adv* • a *forbiddingly* harsh landscape • He scowled *forbiddingly*.

¹force /'fɔːs/ *noun*, *pl* **forc-es**

1 [*noncount*] : physical strength, power, or effect • The front of the car took the full *force* of the collision. • instruments used to measure the *force* of the wind

2 [*noncount*] : power or violence used on a person or thing • The police were accused of using excessive *force* when they made the arrest. • We discourage the use of *force*. • a show of *force* • He used brute *force* to open the door. • He took the purse from her *by force*. [=he used physical power to take her purse] • He feels that this conflict can only be resolved *by force of arms*. [=by using weapons; by military action]

3 [*noncount*] : strength or power that is not physical • I was impressed by the *force* of her personality. • lending *force* to his arguments [=making his arguments more effective/persuasive] • These regulations do not have the *force* of law. [=they do not have the power that laws have] • She succeeded *by/through sheer force of will*. [=because she was so determined to succeed] • *Through/By force of circumstance(s)* [=because of conditions that cannot be controlled], the company has had to lay off several hundred workers. • Even after he retired, he still woke up early every day *by/from force of habit*. [=he woke up early every day because he was in the habit of doing so]

4 *technical* : a natural power or effect that is able to change the speed or direction of something [*noncount*] the *force* of gravity [*count*] gravitational/electromagnetic *forces* — see also CENTRIFUGAL FORCE

5 [*count*] : something (such as rain or wind) that occurs in nature and that can be very powerful — usually plural • The cliff was gradually eroded by the *forces* of nature. • natural *forces* — sometimes used figuratively • She gets people to do whatever she wants: she's a *force of nature*. [=she's a very powerful person who cannot be easily controlled]

6 [*count*] **a** : a group of soldiers trained to fight in a war • a *force* of 20,000 soldiers • He belonged to an elite fighting *force*. • The enemy *forces* had us surrounded. • ground *forces* • allied/rebel *forces* — see also AIR FORCE **b** [*count*] : a group of people who do a particular job or are available for a particular purpose • our country's labor/work *force* • The company has a very large sales *force*. • security *forces* — see also TASK FORCE **c** *the Force informal* : POLICE FORCE • After graduating from high school, he joined *the Force*. **d** *the forces Brit* : ARMED FORCES • Will the new defense policy weaken *the forces*?

7 [*count*] : a person or group that has the power to do something or make something happen • The organization has been a strong *force* for good. [=has done a lot of good things] • He has been the driving/motivating *force* behind these changes. [=he has been the person who has caused these changes to occur] • He has become a *force to be reckoned with* [=a person who has power and influence] in politics.

8 — used to describe the strength of a wind • damage caused by a *force 9 gale* • The house was flattened by hurricane-*force* winds. • Storm-*force* winds [=very strong winds] are expected tonight.

9 [*count*] *baseball* : FORCE-OUT • a *force* at second base

in force **1** : in large numbers • Picnickers were out *in force* today. [=there were many picnickers out today] **2** *of a law, rule, etc.* : actually working or operating • The ban remains *in force*. [=in effect] • The resolution remains *in full force*.

into force : into the condition of actually working or operating • The law came/went *into force* [=into effect] last year. • The regulations have not yet been put/brought *into force*.

join forces also combine forces : to begin working together in order to achieve something • We must all *join forces* to prevent violence. — often + *with* • The company has *joined forces with* local environmental groups.

moving force see MOVING

— see also TOUR DE FORCE

²force *verb* **forces; forced; forc-ing** [+ *obj*]

1 : to make (someone) do something that he or she does not want to do • They *forced* us to work long hours without pay. • He was *forced* to resign from office. = He was *forced* out of office. • I really have to *force myself* [=to make a great effort] to get up and go to work these days.

2 **a** : to make it necessary for (someone) *to do* something • The flooding *forced* hundreds of residents *to flee* their homes. • After seeing the evidence, I was *forced to admit* my error. • I

am *forced to conclude* that more funding will be necessary. • The pilot was *forced to land* when one of the plane's engines caught fire. **b** : to make (something) necessary • The scandal *forced* his resignation. • Lack of time may eventually *force* a compromise. **c** : to cause the occurrence of (something that other people do not want to happen) • They are trying to *force* a vote on this issue.

3 **a** : to move (someone or something) by physical effort • The runner was *forced* out of bounds. • Their car was *forced* off the road. • After hours of fighting, they were able to *force* back the enemy. • The pressure *forces* the water to the surface. • A pump *forces* air into the chamber. • The medicine tasted awful, but I managed to *force it down*. [=to swallow it by making an effort] • If the key doesn't fit the lock, don't *force it*. [=don't use too much physical strength to make the key go into the lock] **b** : to cause (something) to open by using physical effort or violence • They *forced* (open) the door. • It was clear that the door/lock had been *forced*.

4 : to produce (something, such as a smile) by making an effort • She *forced* a smile.

5 *baseball* : to cause (a runner) to be put out by means of a force-out • He was *forced* (out) at second base.

force on/upon [*phrasal verb*] **force (someone or something)**

on/upon (someone) : to cause (someone or something that is not wanted) to be accepted by (someone) • They resent having these decisions *forced on* them. • I don't like the way he keeps *forcing* himself *on* us. [=the way he keeps coming to be with us when we do not want to be with him]

force someone's hand : to make it necessary for someone to do something • She'd intended to postpone her decision, but events *forced her hand*.

force (something) down someone's throat see THROAT

force the issue see ¹ISSUE

force your way : to move ahead by pushing and making people move out of your way • They *forced their way* into the room. • He *forced his way* through the crowd.

forced /'fɔːst/ *adj*

1 **a** : caused by necessity • The plane had engine problems and had to make a *forced* landing in a field. [=the plane was forced to land in a field] **b** : obtained by using power or force • a *forced* confession

2 : done with effort : not natural or sincere • *forced* laughter

forced labor *noun* [*noncount*]

1 : very hard physical work that someone is forced to do • The prisoners endured years of *forced labor*.

2 : a group of people who are made to work very hard for no money; *also* : a system that allows this • The railroad was built with/by *forced labor*.

force-feed *verb* **-feeds; -fed; -feed-ing** [+ *obj*]

1 : to make (a person or animal) eat by physically putting food down the throat

2 : to force (someone) to read, listen to, or learn (something) • *force-feed* students the classics = *force-feed* the classics to students

force field *noun*, *pl* ~ **fields** [*count*] *chiefly US* : an area in which a particular force (such as magnetism) exists and can be felt — often used figuratively • No one could break through the protective *force field* legislators put up around the proposed bill.

force-ful /'fɔːsfəl/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]

1 : having a strong and confident quality • He has a very *forceful* personality. • She's a confident and *forceful* leader.

2 : expressed in a way that is effective and that influences people's thoughts and ideas • They have made a *forceful* argument in favor of changing the system.

3 : done with military or physical force • The government has threatened to use more *forceful* measures if necessary.

— **force-ful-ly** *adv* • speaking *forcefully* — **force-ful-ness** *noun* [*noncount*] • the *forcefulness* of her argument/personality

force-out /'fɔːs,aut/ *noun*, *pl* **-outs** [*count*] *baseball* : a play in which a runner who is forced to run to the next base is put out when the player who has the ball touches the base • a *force-out* at second base — called also *force*, *force play*

for-cepts /'fɔːsɛps/ *noun*, *pl* **forceps** [*count*] : a medical tool that is used for grasping or holding things • He removed the splinter with a (pair of) *forceps*. — usually plural • He removed the splinter with *forceps*. • a *forceps* delivery/birth [=a birth/delivery in which forceps are used to help deliver the baby]

forc-i-ble /'fɔːsəbəl/ *adj* : made or done by physical force or violence • the *forcible* removal of the rioters • (*chiefly US*)

The door showed signs of **forcible entry**. [=the door looked as if someone had forced it open]

– **forc-i-bly** /'foəsəbli/ *adv* • The rioters were *forcibly* removed from the scene.

¹**ford** /'foəd/ *verb* **fords**; **ford-ed**; **ford-ing** [+ *obj*] : to cross (an area of water) by walking or riding across a shallow part • *ford* a river/stream

– **ford-able** /'foədəbəl/ *adj* • a *fordable* river

²**ford** *noun*, *pl* **fords** [*count*] : a shallow part of a river, stream, etc., that may be crossed by walking or driving across it

¹**fore** /'foə/ *noun*

to the fore : in or into a place of importance • The recent publicity has brought the issue *to the fore*. [=has brought a great deal of attention to the issue] • The issue has come *to the fore*.

²**fore** *adv* : toward or at the front part of a boat, ship, or airplane • The plane's exits are located *fore* and aft. — compare ¹**AFT**

³**fore** *adj* : located at the front of a boat, ship, or airplane • the *fore* and aft cabins/exits

fore- *combining form*

1 : earlier • *foresee*

2 **a** : located at the front • the dog's *foreleg* **b** : front or lower part of (something specified) • She bruised her *forearm*.

¹**fore-arm** /'foə,ɑ:m/ *noun*, *pl* **-arms** [*count*] : the part of the arm between the elbow and the wrist — see picture at **HUMAN**

²**forearm** /foə'ɑ:m/ *verb* **-arms**; **-armed**; **-arm-ing**

forewarned is forearmed see **FOREWARN**

fore-bear *also* **for-bear** /'foə,beə/ *noun*, *pl* **-bears** [*count*]

formal : a member of your family in the past : **ANCESTOR** • His *forebears* fought in the American Civil War.

fore-bod-ing /foə'boudɪŋ/ *noun*, *pl* **-ings** : a feeling that something bad is going to happen [*noncount*] She was filled with a sense of *foreboding*. [*count*] It seems that her *forebodings* were justified.

¹**fore-cast** /'foə,kæst, Brit 'fɔ:,kɑ:st/ *verb* **-casts**; **-cast** *also* **-cast-ed**; **-cast-ing** [+ *obj*] : to say that (something) will happen in the future : to predict (something, such as weather) after looking at the information that is available • They're *forecasting* rain for this weekend. • The company is *forecasting* reduced profits. • Experts *forecast* that the economy will slow in the coming months.

– **fore-cast-er** *noun*, *pl* **-ers** [*count*] • weather *forecasters* • economic *forecasters*

²**forecast** *noun*, *pl* **-casts** [*count*] : a statement about what you think is going to happen in the future • weather *forecasts* • economic *forecasts*

fore-cas-tle /'foʊksəl/ *noun*, *pl* **-cas-tles** [*count*] *technical* : the front part of the upper deck of a ship where the sailors usually live

fore-close /foə'klouz/ *verb* **-clos-es**; **-closed**; **-clos-ing** : to take back property because the money owed for the property has not been paid [*no obj*] They've been unable to make their mortgage payments, and the bank has threatened to *foreclose*. — often + *on* • The bank has threatened to *foreclose on* their property/mortgage. [+ *obj*] The bank has threatened to *foreclose* their mortgage.

– **fore-clo-sure** /foə'klouzə/ *noun*, *pl* **-sures** [*count*, *noncount*]

fore-court /'foə,koət/ *noun*, *pl* **-courts** [*count*]

1 : the area near the net in tennis

2 *chiefly Brit* : a large, flat, open area in front of a building

fore-doomed /foə'du:md/ *adj*, *formal* : certain to fail • Their efforts were *foredoomed* to failure.

fore-fa-ther /'foə,fɑ:ðə/ *noun*, *pl* **-thers** [*count*]

1 : a person (especially a man) who was in your family in past times : **ANCESTOR** — usually plural • The town is named after one of his *forefathers*.

2 : a person (especially a man) from an earlier time who helped to create or start something modern or important — usually plural • our country's *forefathers*

fore-fin-ger /'foə,fɪŋgə/ *noun*, *pl* **-gers** [*count*] : the finger that is next to the thumb — called also *index finger*; see picture at **HUMAN**

fore-foot /'foə,fut/ *noun*, *pl* **-feet** /-,fi:t/ [*count*] : either one of the front feet of a four-footed animal

fore-front /'foə,frʌnt/ *noun*, *pl* **-fronts** [*count*] : the most important part or position — usually singular • Their company is *at/in the forefront* of research in this area. [=their company is a leader in research in this area] • The discussion

has brought the issue of health care *to the forefront*. [=has made the issue very important or well-known]

foregather *variant spelling of* **FORGATHER**

forego *variant spelling of* **FORGO**

fore-go-ing /foə'gowɪŋ/ *adj*, *formal* : already mentioned • The *foregoing* [=preceding, above] examples illustrate my point.

the foregoing formal : the things that have just been mentioned • It should be clear from *the foregoing* that a new system is needed.

fore-gone /'foə,gə:n/ *adj*

a foregone conclusion : something in the future that is certain to happen or be true • It was a *foregone conclusion* that he would take over the business after his father retired. • Most people felt that the outcome of the trial was a *foregone conclusion*. [=they felt sure that the trial would end in a certain way]

¹**fore-ground** /'foə,graʊnd/ *noun*, *pl* **-grounds**

1 [*count*] : the part of a scene or picture that is nearest to and in front of the viewer — usually singular • Objects in the *foreground* seem larger than those in the background.

2 [*singular*] : an important position • We want the issue to be in the *foreground*.

²**fore-ground** *verb* **-grounds**; **-ground-ed**; **-ground-ing** [+ *obj*] : to make (something) more important • Public discussion has *foregrounded* the issue of health care.

fore-hand /'foə,hænd/ *noun*, *pl* **-hands** [*count*] *sports* : a way of hitting a ball in tennis and similar games in which the palm of the hand holding the racket is turned in the direction of the ball • She hit a *forehand* across the court. — often used before another noun • a *forehand* stroke/shot — compare **BACKHAND**

fore-head /'foə,hed, 'færəd/ *noun*, *pl* **-heads** [*count*] : the part of the face above the eyes — see picture at **FACE**

for-eign /'forən/ *adj*

1 : located outside a particular place or country and especially outside your own country • They've visited several *foreign* countries. • a *foreign correspondent* [=a journalist who reports from a foreign country]

2 : coming from or belonging to a different place or country • We don't get many *foreign* visitors. • Have you studied any *foreign* languages? • She has a *foreign* accent. • a *foreign-born* resident [=a resident who was born in a foreign country]

3 : relating to or dealing with other nations • matters of *foreign* policy • the ministry of *foreign* affairs • *foreign* aid/trade — see also **FOREIGN OFFICE**

4 : coming from outside : not normally found in the place or part where it is located • Dust and other *foreign* bodies can irritate the eyes. • The sample contained a *foreign* object.

5 [*more ~*; *most ~*] : not known or familiar • a *foreign* concept — often + *to* • That concept is completely *foreign to* me. • That is *foreign to* my experience.

– **for-eign-ness** /'forənnəs/ *noun* [*noncount*] • the *foreignness* of this concept

for-eign-er /'forənə/ *noun*, *pl* **-ers** [*count*] : a person who is from a country that is not your own

foreign exchange *noun* [*noncount*] *finance*

1 : the process by which people in different countries pay each other by exchanging different types of money

2 : money from foreign countries • Our country has to export more in order to earn more *foreign exchange*.

Foreign Legion *noun*

the Foreign Legion : a part of the French Army that is made up of soldiers who are not French

Foreign Office *noun*

the Foreign Office : a government department especially in Great Britain that deals with foreign affairs ♦ The official name of the British Foreign Office is now the *Foreign and Commonwealth Office*.

Foreign Secretary *noun*, *pl* ~ **-taries** [*count*] *Brit* : the official in Great Britain and other countries who is in charge of how the country relates to and deals with foreign countries

Foreign Service *noun*

the Foreign Service : a part of the U.S. State Department that hires people (such as diplomats) to represent the government in foreign countries

fore-know-ledge /,foə'na:lɪdʒ/ *noun* [*noncount*] *formal* : knowledge of something before it happens or exists • He denied any *foreknowledge* of the crime.

fore-leg /'foə,leg/ *noun*, *pl* **-legs** [*count*] : a front leg of an animal

fore·lock /'foʊ,lɔ:k/ *noun*, *pl* -locks [count] : a piece of hair growing from the front of the head

tug/touch your forelock *Brit, disapproving* : to be too concerned with pleasing someone who you think is powerful or important

fore·man /'foʊmən/ *noun*, *pl* -men /-mən/ [count]

1 : the member of a jury who is the leader

2 : a person who is in charge of a group of workers ✧ *Foreman* can refer to women as well as men, but it is more commonly used for men.

¹fore·most /'foʊ,moust/ *adj* : most important • He is the *foremost* [=leading] authority/scholar on the American Civil War period. • Safety is their *foremost* [=primary] concern.

²foremost *adv*

1 : in the first or most important position • The building's designers put safety *foremost*. [= (more commonly) *first*]

2 : at the most basic or important level • Though he has many other interests, he is *foremost* [=primarily] an authority on the American Civil War period.

first and foremost see ²FIRST

fore·name /'foʊ,neɪm/ *noun*, *pl* -names [count] *chiefly Brit, formal* : FIRST NAME

fo·ren·sic /fə'rensɪk/ *adj, law*

1 : relating to the use of scientific knowledge or methods in solving crimes • *forensic* medicine • *forensic* science/experts

2 *somewhat formal* : relating to, used in, or suitable to a court of law • a lawyer's *forensic* skills [=a lawyer's skills at arguing a case in a court of law]

fo·ren·sics /fə'rensɪks/ *noun* [noncount]

1 : the study or science of solving crimes by using scientific knowledge or methods • a career in *forensics*

2 : the results of a scientific test done to help solve a crime • The *forensics* showed he was at the scene of the crime.

fore·play /'foʊ,pleɪ/ *noun* [noncount] : sexual actions (such as kissing and touching) that people do with each other before they have sex

fore·run·ner /'foʊ,rʌnə/ *noun*, *pl* -ners [count]

1 : someone or something that comes before another • a simple machine that was the *forerunner* of today's computers

2 : a sign of something that is going to happen • I had that strange feeling that's the *forerunner* of a cold.

fore·see /foʊ'si:/ *verb* -sees; -saw /-'sɑ:/; -seen /-'si:n/; -see·ing [+ *obj*] *somewhat formal* : to see or become aware of (something that has not yet happened) • We couldn't have *foreseen* the consequences of our actions. • He *foresees* a day when all war will cease. • She *foresaw* the company's potential and invested early on.

— **fore·see·able** /foʊ'si:jəbəl/ *adj* • a *foreseeable* consequence • We have no plans to sell our house *in/for the foreseeable future*. [=soon]

fore·shad·ow /foʊ'shədou/ *verb* -shad·ows; -shad·owed; -shad·ow·ing [+ *obj*] : to give a suggestion of (something that has not yet happened) • Her early interest in airplanes *foreshadowed* her later career as a pilot. • The hero's predicament is *foreshadowed* in the first chapter.

— **foreshadowing** *noun*, *pl* -ings [count, noncount] • The first chapter contains *foreshadowings* of what will happen later.

fore·short·en /foʊ'shɔ:tən/ *verb* -ens; -ened; -en·ing [+ *obj*]

1 : to cause (something) to appear shorter than it really is because it is in the foreground of a drawing, painting, etc. • The parts that extend towards the viewer are *foreshortened*.

2 *somewhat formal* : to make (something) shorter • His athletic career was *foreshortened* [= (more commonly) *shortened, cut short*] by a knee injury.

fore·sight /'foʊ,sait/ *noun* [noncount] : the ability to see what will or might happen in the future • They had the *fore-sight* to invest the money wisely. • His career choice shows a lack of *foresight*.

— **fore·sight·ed** /'foʊ,saitəd/ *adj* [more ~; most ~] • *fore-sighted* investors/investments — **fore·sight·ed·ness** *noun* [noncount]

fore·skin /'foʊ,skɪn/ *noun*, *pl* -skins [count] : a fold of skin that covers the end of the penis

for·est /'forəst/ *noun*, *pl* -ests : a thick growth of trees and bushes that covers a large area [count] a vast *forest* [non-count] Fires destroyed acres of *forest*. — often used before another noun • *forest* fires • the *forest* floor — often used figuratively • The candidate was surrounded by a *forest* of microphones. — see color picture on page C7; see also RAIN FOREST

not see the forest for the trees see TREE

fore·stall /foʊ'stɑ:l/ *verb* -stalls; -stalled; -stall·ing [+ *obj*]

1 : to stop (something) from happening or to cause (something) to happen at a later time • Negotiations failed to *forestall* the conflict. • His comments were meant to *forestall* criticism of his proposal.

2 : to act before (someone else) in order to prevent something • He *forestalled* critics by offering a defense of the project.

for·est·ed /'forəstəd/ *adj* [more ~; most ~] : covered or filled with trees • a heavily *forested* [=wooded] area

for·est·er /'forəstə/ *noun*, *pl* -ers [count] : a person whose job is to take care of forests by planting trees, cutting down trees, etc.

forest green *noun* [noncount] *chiefly US* : a dark green — see color picture on page C2

forest ranger *noun*, *pl* ~ -ers [count] *US* : RANGER 1

for·est·ry /'forəstri/ *noun* [noncount] : the science and practice of caring for forests • She studied *forestry* in college.

fore·taste /'foʊ,təɪst/ *noun*, *pl* -tastes [count] *somewhat formal* : a small or short experience of something that will not be fully experienced until later • The sudden cold snap gave us a *foretaste* [=taste] of winter. • These layoffs are only a *foretaste* of what's to come.

fore·tell /foʊ'tel/ *verb* -tells; -told /-'tould/; -tell·ing [+ *obj*] *formal + literary* : to describe (something) before it happens : PREDICT • We cannot *foretell* the future. • Economists *foretold* impending disaster.

fore·thought /'foʊ,θɑ:t/ *noun* [noncount] : careful thinking or planning about the future • Her decision showed a lack of *forethought*. • With a little *forethought*, you can save yourself a lot of work later on.

¹for·ev·er /fə'revə/ *adv*

1 a : for an endless time : for all time • He promised he'd love her *forever*. [=eternally] • She was convinced that she would live *forever*. **b** : for a very long time • I've been waiting *forever* for the doctor.

2 : at all times : CONSTANTLY • a dog that was *forever* chasing cars • He's *forever* asking silly questions.

for ever (and ever) see EVER

²forever *noun* [noncount] : an extremely long time : a time that seems to last forever • After what seemed like *forever*, I was able to see the doctor. • It *took forever* to find his keys.

fore·warn /foʊ'wɔ:n/ *verb* -warns; -warned; -warn·ing [+ *obj*] : to warn (someone) before something happens — usually used as (be) *forewarned* • They had *been forewarned* of the danger. • *Be forewarned*: there will be a test on Monday. ✧ The expression *forewarned is forearmed* means that when you are warned about something, you are prepared to deal with it.

fore·wo·man /'foʊ,wʊmən/ *noun*, *pl* -wo·men /-wɪmən/ [count] : a woman who is the leader of a jury

fore·word /'foʊ,wɜ:d/ *noun*, *pl* -words [count] : a section at the beginning of a book that introduces the book and is usually written by someone other than the book's author

¹for·feit /'foʊ,fət/ *verb* -feits; -feit·ed; -feit·ing : to lose or give up (something) as a punishment or because of a rule or law [+ *obj*] He *forfeited* his right to a trial by jury. • If the money is not claimed within six months, it will be *forfeited* to the town. [=the owner of the money will lose any right to it] • They didn't have enough players, so they ended up having to *forfeit* the game (to the other team). [no *obj*] They didn't have enough players, so they ended up having to *forfeit*.

²forfeit *noun*, *pl* -feits : something that is lost or given up as punishment or because of a rule or law [count] — usually singular • The judge declared the property a *forfeit*. • They were required to pay a *forfeit*. [noncount] We won the game *by forfeit* [=we won because the other team forfeited the game]

³forfeit *adj, not used before a noun, formal* : given up or taken away as a punishment or because of a rule or law • If the money is not claimed within six months, it will be *forfeit* to the town. [=the owner of the money will lose any right to it, and it will be given to the town]

for·fei·ture /'foʊ,fəɪʃə/ *noun*, *pl* -tures [count, noncount] *law* : the act of giving up something as punishment or because of a rule or law : the act of forfeiting something • *forfeiture* of assets • money subject to *forfeiture*

for·gath·er or fore·gath·er /foʊ'gæðə/ *verb* -ers; -ered; -er·ing [no *obj*] *formal* : to come together as a group : GATH-

ER • Members of the organization are planning to *forgather* in the city for their annual meeting.

forgave *past tense of FORGIVE*

¹forged /'foʊdʒ/ *verb* **forg-es; forged; forg-ing** [+ *obj*]

1 : to form something by heating and shaping metal • *forging* hooks out of pieces of iron = *forging* pieces of iron into hooks

2 : to form or create (something, such as an agreement or relationship) through great effort • The two countries have *forged* a strong alliance. • They were able to *forged* a peaceful relationship.

3 : to make or copy (something, such as a document or signature) falsely in order to deceive someone • *forged* a check • *forged* a signature • a *forged* passport

— compare ³FORGE

— **forg-er** *noun*, *pl* **-ers** [*count*] • a check *forged* • a professional art *forged*

²forged *noun*, *pl* **forges** [*count*] : a place where objects are made by heating and shaping metal

³forged *verb* **forges; forged; forg-ing** [*no obj*]

1 : to move forward slowly and steadily • The hikers *forged* through the snow. — usually + *ahead* • The ship *forged ahead* through heavy seas.

2 : to move with a sudden increase of speed and power • On the last lap, he *forged* into the lead. — often + *ahead* • The company has *forged ahead* of its competitors.

— compare ¹FORGE

forg-ery /'foʊdʒəri/ *noun*, *pl* **-er-ies**

1 [*noncount*] : the crime of falsely making or copying a document in order to deceive people • check *forgery*

2 [*count*] : something that is falsely made or copied in order to deceive people : something that is forged • These paintings are *forgeries*. [=fakes]

for-get /fə'get/ *verb* **-gets; -got** /-ˈgɑ:t/; **-got-ten** /-ˈgɑ:tən/ or **-got; -get-ting**

1 : to be unable to think of or remember (something) [+ *obj*] He *forgot* the address. • I keep *forgetting* her name. • The pain and misery are impossible to *forget*. • She *forgot* how to set up the tent. • I'll never *forget* the first time we met. • Don't *forget* that you have to turn off the light when you leave. — often followed by *to* + *verb* • I *forgot to pay* the bill. [*no obj*] "Did you pay the bill?" "I *forgot*." — often + *about* • I *forgot* (all) *about* paying the bill.

2 [+ *obj*] : to fail to remember to bring or take (something) • When he got to the restaurant he realized that he had *forgot-ten* his wallet. [=he had left his wallet at home]

3 **a or forget about** [+ *obj*] : to stop thinking or caring about (someone) • He was once a famous actor, but now most people have *forgotten* (about) him. • You shouldn't *forget* (about) your old friends. • He's now a *forgotten* hero. • He's a *forgot-ten* man in the world of politics. **b or forget about** [+ *obj*] : to stop thinking or caring about (something) on purpose • We need to *forget* (about) our differences and learn to get along. • "I'm sorry I'm late." "That's OK. *Forget* (about) it." [=don't worry about it] • If you're hoping to hear from him soon, *forget* it, it's not going to happen. • *Forget about* finding a way to escape—there's no way out of here. • "Have you seen my keys?" "No. Did you leave them in your other jacket?" "No, I thought . . . Oh, *forget* it, here they are." **c** [*no obj*] : to stop remembering or caring about something • We've had our differences in the past, but now it's time to *forget* and *forget*.

forget yourself : to lose control of your emotions because of anger, excitement, etc. : to behave in a way that is not proper or acceptable • She *forgot herself* and said some things that she later regretted.

for-get-ful /fə'getfəl/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]

1 : tending to forget things : forgetting things often or easily • He became *forgetful* in his old age.

2 — used to say that someone has forgotten something • She has been *forgetful of* her duties. [=she has forgotten/neglected her duties]

— **for-get-ful-ly** *adv* • He *forgetfully* left the lights on. — **for-get-ful-ness** *noun* [*noncount*] • His *forgetfulness* grew worse in his old age.

for-get-me-not /fə'getmi,nɑ:t/ *noun*, *pl* **-nots** [*count*] : a type of small plant that has bright blue flowers

for-get-ta-ble /fə'getəbəl/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : likely to be forgotten : not worth remembering • It was an extremely *forgettable* performance. — opposite UNFORGETTABLE

for-giv-able /fə'givəbəl/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : able to be forgiven : deserving forgiveness • a *forgivable* error/mistake •

Her actions in this case are completely *forgivable*. [=excusable] — opposite UNFORGIVABLE

— **for-giv-ably** /fə'givəbli/ *adv*

for-give /fə'giv/ *verb* **-gives; -gave** /-ˈgerv/; **-giv-en** /-ˈgivən/; **-giv-ing**

1 : to stop feeling anger toward (someone who has done something wrong) : to stop blaming (someone) [+ *obj*] *for-give* your enemies • Can you ever *forgive* me for being so selfish? • I've never *forgiven* myself for the way I treated her. • We must ask God to *forgive* us for our sins. • He *can be forgiven* for feeling this way. [=it is understandable that he feels this way; he should not be blamed for feeling this way] [*no obj*] When he feels he's been insulted, he finds it hard to *for-give and forget*.

2 [+ *obj*] : to stop feeling anger about (something) : to forgive someone for (something wrong) • He finds it hard to *for-give* an insult. • We must ask God to *forgive* our sins.

3 [+ *obj*] : to stop requiring payment of (money that is owed) • The government has agreed to *forgive* some of the debt.

forgive me — used in speech as a polite way of starting to say something that may seem rude or unpleasant • *Forgive me* (for saying so), but I don't think you understood my point. • *Forgive me*, but something has come up and I have to leave right away.

— **for-giv-er** *noun*, *pl* **-ers** [*count*] • a *forgiver* of sins

for-give-ness /fə'givnəs/ *noun* [*noncount*]

1 : the act of forgiving someone or something • I ask (for) your *forgiveness*. [=I ask you to forgive me] • *forgiveness* of our sins

2 : the attitude of someone who is willing to forgive other people • She treats us with kindness and *forgiveness*.

forgiving *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]

1 : able or willing to forgive someone or something • a person with a *forgiving* nature — sometimes + *of* • As a teacher, she was *forgiving of* her students' mistakes.

2 — used to describe something that produces good results even when it is not used perfectly • The tennis racket is designed to be *forgiving*. [=designed to produce good shots even when the ball is not hit perfectly] — opposite UNFORGIVING

for-go or fore-go /foʊ'gou/ *verb* **-goes; -went** /-ˈwent/; **-gone** /-ˈgɑ:n/; **-go-ing** [+ *obj*] : to give up the use or enjoyment of (something) • *for-go* an opportunity • She is planning to *for-go* her right to a trial and simply plead guilty. ♠ The past tense *forwent* is now rare or formal.

forgot *past tense of FORGET*

forgotten *past participle of FORGET*

for in-stance /fə'rɪnstəns/ *noun*, *pl* ~ **-stanc-es** [*count*]

US, informal : EXAMPLE • Let me give you a *for instance*. — see also *for instance* at INSTANCE

¹fork /'foʊk/ *noun*, *pl* **forks** [*count*]

1 a : a small tool with two or more pointed parts (called prongs or tines) used for picking up and eating food • a salad *fork* — see picture at PLACE SETTING **b** : a garden tool with two or more prongs used for lifting and digging soil — see also PITCHFORK

2 a : a place where something (such as a road or river) divides into two parts • a *fork in the road* **b** : either one of the parts that a road, river, etc., divides into • take the left *fork* • the north *fork* of the river

3 : a part or tool that divides into two parts • the front *fork* of a bicycle — see also TUNING FORK

²fork *verb* **forks; forked; fork-ing**

1 [*no obj*] *of a road, river, etc.* : to divide into two parts • The road *forks* to the north and south.

2 [+ *obj*] *informal* : to pay or give (money) — usually + *over* or *out* • He had to *fork over* half his paycheck. • The company *forked out* thousands of dollars to repair the damage.

3 [+ *obj*] : to lift or throw (something) with a fork • They *forked* the hay into the loft.

forked /'foʊkt/ *adj* : divided into two parts at one end : shaped like the letter Y • a bird with a deeply *forked* tail • *forked* lightning • the *forked* tongue of a snake

speak/talk with (a) forked tongue : to speak in a dishonest way that is meant to deceive people • His colleagues accused him of *speaking with a forked tongue*.

fork-ful /'foʊk,fəl/ *noun*, *pl* **-fuls** [*count*] : the amount held by a fork • a *forkful* of mashed potatoes

fork-lift /'foʊk,lɪft/ *noun*, *pl* **-lifts** [*count*] : a machine that is used for lifting and moving heavy objects — called also *fork-lift truck*; see picture at CONSTRUCTION

for-lorn /fə'loʊn/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]

1 : sad and lonely • a *forlorn* old widow

2 : empty and in poor condition • a *forlorn* landscape • a *forlorn* abandoned factory

3 : not having much chance of success : nearly hopeless • a *forlorn* cause/hope • He led a *forlorn* [=desperate] attack against the enemy.

— **for-lorn-ly** *adv* • She wandered *forlornly* through the deserted neighborhood.

1 **form** /'fɔ:m/ *noun, pl forms*

1 [*count*] **a** : a type or kind of something • Coal is a *form* of carbon. • a rare/deadly *form* of cancer • a popular *form* of entertainment • different *forms* of life = different life *forms* [=different types of living beings] • an ancient *form* of music • an art *form* **b** : one of several or many different ways in which something is seen, experienced, or produced • The medicine can be taken in the *form* of a liquid or pill. = The medicine can be taken in pill or liquid *form*. • His essays are now available in book *form*. [=his essays have been published in a book] • the written/spoken *form* of the language • Antisocial behavior can take many *forms*. [=there are many different types of antisocial behavior] • Most of his wealth is in the *form* of stocks. [=most of his wealth consists of stocks]

2 **a** : the shape of something [*count*] the building's massive *form* [*noncount*] a style of architecture that emphasizes *form* over function **b** [*count*] : something that can be seen only as a shape or outline • The shadowy *forms* of several people were visible through the smoke. **c** [*count*] : bodily shape : **FIGURE** • the human/female *form*

3 [*count*] : a document with blank spaces for filling in information • a tax *form* • an application *form* • fill out a *form*

4 [*noncount*] *somewhat old-fashioned* : a way of behaving that is judged as proper or improper • It's considered *bad/poor form* to arrive so early. = It's not considered *good form* to arrive so early. [=it is not proper to arrive so early]

5 [*noncount*] **a** : a manner or style of performing • an athlete with good *form* • She would be a better swimmer/golfer if she improved her *form*. **b** : condition for performing • an athlete in top *form* [=shape] **c** — used to describe how well or badly someone is performing • She was really in great *form* at the party, telling jokes and dancing. • He was *at the top of his form*. [=he was performing extremely well] • (*chiefly Brit*) He's been playing poorly in recent months, but now he's back *on form*. [=now he's playing well again] • (*chiefly Brit*) She was a little *off form*.

6 : the way in which the parts of a piece of writing or music or of a work of art are arranged [*noncount*] the *form* and content of a poem/essay [*count*] The sonnet is a poetical *form*. • symphonic *forms*

7 [*count*] : any one of the different ways in which a word may be written or spoken • the plural/possessive *form* of a noun • the inflected *forms* of a verb — see also **COMBINING FORM**

8 [*noncount*] : a grade in a British secondary school or in some American private schools • students in the sixth *form* as a *matter of form* — used to say that something is done because it is polite, usual, or required • He was asked to participate only as a *matter of form*.

form of address see **2** **ADDRESS**

in any way, shape, or form see **1** **WAY**

take form : to begin to develop : to start to exist or be seen • a political movement that first *took form* in the 1960s • The new stadium is gradually *taking form*. [=being built]

true to form ✧ Something or someone that is (or runs, holds, etc.) *true to form* behaves or proceeds in the usual and expected way. • Her latest movie is/runs *true to form*. • *True to form*, he was 20 minutes late for the meeting.

2 **form** *verb forms; formed; form-ing*

1 [+ *obj*] : to cause (something) to have a particular shape or form • She *formed* [=made] the dough into balls.

2 [+ *obj*] : to get, create, or develop (something) over a period of time • *form* a habit • The friendship that they *formed* in school lasted a lifetime. • *form* an opinion • Her early experiences played an important role in *forming* her personality. • His ideas were not yet fully *formed*.

3 **a** : to begin to exist or to be seen [*no obj*] Fog often *forms* [=develops] in this valley. • The drug can help prevent blood clots from *forming*. • Beads of sweat *formed* on his forehead. • A plan was gradually *forming* in my mind. [+ *obj*] A plan was gradually *forming itself* in my mind. **b** [*no obj*] : to gather together in a group • An angry crowd was *forming* in the streets. • insects *forming* into swarms

4 [+ *obj*] : to make or create (something) • Water vapor condenses to *form* clouds. • The two traditions have merged to *form* a new culture. • A thin layer of plastic *forms* a protec-

tive coating over the surface. • They have *formed* a council to investigate the incident. • *form* a government/company/coalition/partnership • Mix the wet and dry ingredients until they *form* a paste. • Our footprints *formed* a lovely pattern in the wet sand.

5 [*linking verb*] : to be something • one of several products that *form* [=make up, constitute] the foundation/basis of the company's success • These principles *form* [=are] the essence of his philosophy. • These books *form* the backbone of his collection.

6 [+ *obj*] : to be arranged in (a shape) • The chairs *formed* a semicircle. : to move or be moved into (a shape) • a substance capable of *forming* different shapes • The dancers *formed* a line. = The dancers *formed themselves* into a line.

1 **for-mal** /'fɔ:məl/ *adj*

1 [*more ~; most ~*] : requiring or using serious and proper clothes and manners • We attended a *formal* dinner. • a *formal* occasion/event • They are *formal* with people they don't know well; *also* : suitable for a formal occasion • a *formal* dress • wearing *formal* clothes — opposite **INFORMAL**

2 [*more ~; most ~*] *of language* : suitable for serious or official speech and writing • He spoke to them in *formal* Spanish. • a *formal* word — opposite **INFORMAL**

3 **a** : made or done in an official and usually public way • He wrote up a *formal* statement of his political beliefs. • She received *formal* recognition for her volunteer work. • He has made a *formal* announcement of his candidacy. **b** : done in a proper way according to the law • a *formal* contract • They seem to be interested in buying the house, but they haven't yet made a *formal* offer.

4 : arranged in a very orderly and regular way • a *formal* garden — opposite **INFORMAL**

5 [*more ~; most ~*] : showing great concern for behaving in a proper and serious way • He has a very stiff and *formal* manner.

6 : received in a school • His *formal* education ended when he dropped out of high school. • He lacks *formal* schooling.

7 : relating to the form of something (such as a piece of writing) rather than the content • the *formal* aspects of a poem

— **for-mal-ly** *adv* • dressed *formally* • They behave very *formally* with people they don't know well. • He *formally* announced his candidacy.

2 **formal** *noun, pl -mals* [*count*] **US** : a social gathering (such as a dance) that requires formal dress and manners : a formal event

form-al-de-hyde /fɔ:m'ældə,haɪd/ *noun* [*noncount*] *chemistry* : a chemical that is used to prevent decay in the dead bodies of people and animals

for-mal-ism /'fɔ:mə,lɪzəm/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a method, style, way of thinking, etc., that shows very careful attention to traditional forms and rules • artistic/musical *formalism*

— **for-mal-ist** /'fɔ:mə,lɪst/ *noun, pl -ists* [*count*] — **for-mal-ist** or **for-mal-is-tic** /,fɔ:mə'lɪstɪk/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] • *formalist* notions about art

for-mal-i-ty /fɔ:m'æləti/ *noun, pl -ties*

1 : a formal quality [*noncount*] Her use of old-fashioned language lends an air of *formality* to her writing. • He failed to appreciate the *formality* of the occasion. [*singular*] a *formality* of expression

2 [*count*] : something that is required or usual but that has little true meaning or importance • They haven't approved the loan yet, but that's just a mere/pure *formality*.

3 [*count*] : a formal part, activity, etc. — usually plural • the *formalities* of courtship • Let's skip the *formalities* and get right down to business.

for-mal-ize *also Brit for-mal-ise* /'fɔ:mə,ləɪz/ *verb -iz-es; -ized; -iz-ing* [+ *obj*] : to make (something) formal : to give proper or official form to (something) • The company has *formalized* its hiring practices. • Congress *formalized* the policy by making it law.

— **for-mal-i-za-tion** *also Brit for-mal-i-sa-tion* /,fɔ:mə'lə'zeɪʃən, Brit ,fɔ:mə,ləɪ'zeɪʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*]

1 **for-mat** /'fɔ:mæt/ *noun, pl -mats*

1 : the form, design, or arrangement of something (such as a book, magazine, or television or radio program) [*count*] the book's large-print *format* • The radio station recently changed its *format* from jazz to classical. [=the radio station now plays classical music instead of jazz] [*noncount*] The journals are available in electronic *format*.

2 : the way in which information is stored on a computer disk [*count*] different file *formats* [*noncount*] The file is saved in MP3 *format*.

2format *verb* -mats; -mat·ted; -mat·ting [+ *obj*]

1 : to arrange (something) in a particular format • The book is *formatted* in several different styles. • The data was improperly *formatted*.

2 : to prepare (a computer disk) so that it can store information in a particular format • *format* a floppy disk

for·ma·tion /foə'meɪʃən/ *noun*, *pl* -tions

1 [*noncount*] : the act of forming or creating something • the *formation* [=development] of new ideas • The book explains the *formation* of the planets.

2 [*count*] : something that is formed or created • an interesting cloud *formation* • new word *formations* • rock *formations*

3 : an orderly arrangement or group of people, ships, or airplanes — often used after *in* [*noncount*] The soldiers were marching *in formation*. • jets flying *in formation* [*count*] The team ran on the field and lined up *in a punt formation*.

for·ma·tive /'foəmətɪv/ *adj* [more ~; most ~]

1 — used to describe the time when someone or something is growing or being formed • The movement was then still in its *formative* stages. • His family traveled widely during his *formative* years. [=when he was young]

2 : helping to develop something • This experience had a *formative* influence on his art. • a *formative* experience

for·mer /'foəmə/ *adj*, always used before a noun

1 — used to say what someone or something was in the past • a *former* congressman • her *former* husband • two *former* friends

2 : existing in the past • They hope to restore the old theater to its *former* glory. [=to make it as good as it was in the past] • She is now just a shadow of her *former* self. [=she is not the same person she once was]

the former : the first one of two things or people that have been mentioned • Of these two options, *the former* is less expensive, while the latter is less risky. • If offered a choice between death and exile, he said that he would choose *the former*. [=he would choose death] — compare *the latter* at LATTER

for·mer·ly /'foəməli/ *adv* : at an earlier time : in the past •

He was *formerly* a congressman. • a privilege *formerly* [=previously] available only to the rich • Istanbul was *formerly* [=once] known as Constantinople.

form·fit·ting /'foəmfɪtɪŋ/ *adj* : matching the shape of a person's body : fitting very tightly or closely • a *form-fitting* dress**For·mi·ca** /foə'maɪkə/ *trademark* — used for various plastic products that are used especially for covering surfaces**for·mi·da·ble** /'foəmədəbəl, foə'mɪdəbəl/ *adj* [more ~; most ~]

1 : very powerful or strong : deserving serious attention and respect • a *formidable* enemy/opponent/weapon

2 : very difficult to deal with • The mountains were a *formidable* barrier. • a *formidable* challenge/task

3 : large or impressive in size or amount • He has mastered a *formidable* amount of material.

— **for·mi·da·bly** /'foəmədəbli, foə'mɪdəbli/ *adv* • a *formidably* long list

form·less /'foəmləs/ *adj* : having no regular form or shape

• a *formless* [=shapeless] pile

— **form·less·ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

form letter *noun*, *pl* ~ -ters [*count*] : a letter that has a standard form and is sent to many people • The bank sent out thousands of *form letters* offering its credit card.**for·mu·la** /'foəmjələ/ *noun*, *pl* -las also -lae /-li:/

1 [*count*] **a** : a plan or method for doing, making, or achieving something • His investment strategy is based on a simple *formula*. • This has proven to be a winning *formula*. — often + *for* • a *formula for* success/happiness • There is no *magic formula* [=no simple and certain method] *for* achieving success in the business world. **b** : a list of the ingredients used for making something (such as a medicine or a drink) • The product is made using a secret *formula* that the company refuses to reveal.

2 [*count*] **a** *mathematics* : a general fact or rule expressed in letters and symbols • The *formula* for the area of a rectangle is l X w. [=length times width] **b** *chemistry* : a series of letters, numbers, and symbols showing the chemicals that a compound is made of • The *formula* for water is H₂O. • *chemical formulas*

3 [*noncount*] *US* : a liquid that usually contains milk and that is used for feeding a baby • infants drinking *formula* instead of their mother's milk

4 [*count*] **a** : a set of words that are commonly used in a

way that does not seem original or sincere : a conventional statement • Politicians often resort to familiar *formulas* when discussing controversial issues. **b** : a common way of creating or telling a story in a movie, book, etc. • the narrative *formula* offered in so many movies • All her books are written according to a familiar *formula*.

for·mu·la·ic /,foəmjə'leɪk/ *adj* [more ~; most ~]

1 : produced according to a formula : not new or original • a *formulaic* movie/novel/plot

2 : commonly used • a *formulaic* [=set, fixed] phrase such as "Sincerely yours" at the end of a letter

for·mu·late /'foəmjə,leɪt/ *verb* -lates; -lat·ed; -lat·ing [+ *obj*] : to create, invent, or produce (something) by careful thought and effort • A long-range plan is being *formulated*. [=devised] • *formulate* a rule/theory/principle • a carefully *formulated* response • a plastic specially *formulated* to resist high temperatures

— **for·mu·la·tion** /,foəmjə'leɪʃən/ *noun*, *pl* -tions [*count*, *noncount*] • the *formulation* of a new drug • a drug available in several *formulations* — **for·mu·la·tor** /'foəmjə,leɪtə/ *noun*, *pl* -tors [*count*] • Darwinism was named after its *formulator*, Charles Darwin.

for·ni·cate /'foənə,keɪt/ *verb* -cates; -cat·ed; -cat·ing [*no obj*] *formal* + *disapproving* : to have sexual intercourse ♦ *Fornicate* refers to sexual intercourse that occurs between people who are not married to each other. It is a word that is associated with legal language and the language of the Bible.

— **for·ni·ca·tion** /,foənə'keɪʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*] • laws forbidding *fornication* • commit *fornication* — **for·ni·ca·tor** /'foənə,keɪtə/ *noun*, *pl* -tors [*count*]

for·prof·it /'foə'prɒ:fət/ *adj*, always used before a noun : existing or done for the purpose of making a profit • a *for-profit* company/venture**for·sake** /fə'seɪk/ *verb* -sakes; -sook /-'suk/; -sak·en /-'seɪkən/; -sak·ing [+ *obj*] : to give up or leave (someone or something) entirely • All my friends have *forsaken* [=abandoned] me. • She *forsook* [=left] acting for a teaching career.**for·swear** /foə'sweə/ *verb* -swears; -swore /-'swɔə/; -sworn /-'swɔən/; -swear·ing [+ *obj*] *formal* : to promise to give up (something) or to stop doing (something) • She *forswore* her allegiance to the old regime. • He *foreswore* cigarettes/smoking as his New Year's resolution.**for·syth·ia** /fə'sɪθijə, Brit fə'saɪθiə/ *noun*, *pl* -ias also -ia [*count*, *noncount*] : a type of bush that produces bright yellow flowers in the early spring**fort** /'foət/ *noun*, *pl* forts [*count*] : a strong building or group of buildings where soldiers live • They captured the *fort* after a long battle.

hold the fort or *US hold down the fort* : to be in charge of a place while the person who is usually in charge is away.

You can stay here and *hold the fort* while I go to the store.

1forte /'foət, 'foə,teɪ/ *noun*, *pl* fortes [*count*] : something that a person does well • Drawing was always your *forte*. [=strength]**2for·te** /'foə,teɪ/ *adv*, *music* : in a loud manner • violins playing a passage *forte* — abbr. *f*

— **forte** *adj* • a *forte* passage

forth /'foəθ/ *adv*, *literary*

1 : out into notice or view : OUT • a flow of lava bursting *forth* from the earth • The snow is gone and the flowers are ready to spring *forth*. • He went *forth* to spread the news.

2 : onward or forward in time or place • She stretched *forth* her hands in prayer. • *from that day forth* [=from that time onward]

and so forth see **1SO**

bring forth see **BRING**

call forth see **1CALL**

hold forth see **1HOLD**

put forth see **1PUT**

sally forth see **2SALLY**

set forth see **1SET**

— see also **BACK** AND **FORTH**

forth·com·ing /foəθ'kʌmɪŋ/ *adj*

1 always used before a noun : appearing, happening, or arriving soon • the *forthcoming* [=approaching] holidays • He read an excerpt from his *forthcoming* [=soon to be published] autobiography.

2 not used before a noun : readily available • No help has been *forthcoming* from the government. [=the government has not provided any help]

3 not used before a noun [more ~; most ~] : honest and open • He was more *forthcoming* about his past than they expect-

ed. • She has been less than *forthcoming* about her involvement in the scandal.

forth-right /'fɔəθ,raɪt/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] : honest and direct : providing answers or information in a very clear and direct way • a *forthright* answer/person

– **forth-right-ly** *adv* • He explained his opinions publicly and *forthrightly*. – **forth-right-ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

forth-with /fɔəθ'wɪθ/ *adv, formal* : without delay : IMMEDIATELY • The court ordered the company to cease operations *forthwith*.

for-ti-fi-ca-tion /,fɔətəfə'keɪʃən/ *noun, pl -tions*

1 [*noncount*] : the act of building military defenses to protect a place against attack : the act of fortifying something • They began the *fortification* and reconstruction of the city.

2 [*count*] : a structure (such as a wall or tower) that is built to protect a place — usually plural • The city was protected by massive *fortifications*.

for-ti-fy /'fɔətə,far/ *verb -fies; -fied; -fy-ing* [+ *obj*]

1 : to strengthen (a place) by building military defenses (such as walls, trenches, etc.) • *fortify* a city against attack • a heavily *fortified* town/border • a city *fortified* by high walls

2 **a** : to make (someone or something) stronger • *fortify* [=strengthen] the body against illness • Support for his theories has been *fortified* by the results of these experiments. **b** : to make (yourself) feel stronger or less fearful • He took a deep breath to *fortify* himself before stepping onto the stage.

3 : to improve the usefulness or quality of (something) by adding something to it : ENRICH • *fortify* soil with fertilizer • milk *fortified* with vitamin D

for-tis-si-mo /fɔə'tɪsə,mou/ *adv, music* : very loudly • violins playing *fortissimo*

– **fortissimo** *adj* • a *fortissimo* passage

for-ti-tude /'fɔətə,tuːd, Brit 'fɔ:tə,tjuːd/ *noun* [*noncount*] *formal* : mental strength and courage that allows someone to face danger, pain, etc. • She has endured disappointments with *fortitude* and patience. ♦ The phrase *intestinal fortitude* is used informally in U.S. English as a humorous replacement for “guts,” which means “courage.” • They accused him of lacking *intestinal fortitude*. [=of being a coward]

fort-night /'fɔət,nait/ *noun, pl -nights* [*count*] *chiefly Brit* : a period of 14 days : two weeks • They stayed with us for a *fortnight*.

fort-night-ly /'fɔət,naitli/ *adj, chiefly Brit* : happening or appearing once every two weeks • a *fortnightly* [=biweekly] meeting/magazine

– **fortnightly** *adv* • It happens *fortnightly*.

for-tress /'fɔətrəs/ *noun, pl -tress-es* [*count*] : a place that is protected against attack : a fortified place • a mountaintop *fortress*

– **for-tress-like** /'fɔətrəs,lark/ *adj*

for-tu-i-tous /fɔə'tuːwətəs, Brit fɔ:'tjuətəs/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] *formal*

1 : happening by chance • His presence there was entirely *fortuitous*. • a *fortuitous* circumstance/discovery

2 : having or showing good luck : FORTUNATE • You could not have arrived at a more *fortuitous* time.

usage Sense 2 of *fortuitous* is commonly used, but many people regard it as an error.

– **for-tu-i-tous-ly** *adv*

for-tu-nate /'fɔətʃənət/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*]

1 : having good luck : enjoying good fortune : LUCKY • How *fortunate* we were to find that restaurant! • They were (very) *fortunate* to have his help. • It's *fortunate* (for us) that these documents have been preserved. • We're *fortunate* in having these opportunities. = We're *fortunate* to have these opportunities. • We should try to help others who are less *fortunate* than ourselves. • They were *fortunate* (enough) to escape injury when their car crashed. = It was *fortunate* that they escaped injury when their car crashed.

2 : coming or happening because of good luck • a *fortunate* discovery/outcome — opposite UNFORTUNATE

for-tun-ate-ly /'fɔətʃənətli/ *adv* [*more ~; most ~*] — used to say that something good or lucky has happened • *Fortunately* [=luckily], the plane was able to land safely. • *Fortunately* (for us), these documents have been preserved. • No one was injured, *fortunately*. — opposite UNFORTUNATELY

for-tune /'fɔətʃən/ *noun, pl -tunes*

1 **a** [*count*] : a very large amount of money — usually singular • He won/made a *fortune* (by) gambling. • Their house is worth a *fortune*. • They spent a *small fortune* [=a surprisingly or unexpectedly large amount of money] on redecorating

their house. • She *made her/a fortune* in real estate. **b** [*noncount*] *somewhat formal* : a great amount of money or possessions : WEALTH • He is a man of considerable *fortune*. [=he is a wealthy man] • He hoped to achieve fame and *fortune*.

2 [*noncount*] : something that happens by chance : LUCK • Our meeting here was a real stroke of (good) *fortune*. • They had the good *fortune* to escape injury when their car crashed.

3 **fortunes** [*plural*] : the good and bad things that happen to someone • The book follows the *fortunes* of two families through the years. • the *fortunes* of war

4 [*count*] : the future that someone or something will have • She said that she could tell my *fortune*. [=could tell what would happen to me in the future] • I had my *fortune* told.

– see also SOLDIER OF FORTUNE

fortune cookie *noun, pl ~ -ies* [*count*] : a thin cookie served in Chinese restaurants that contains a slip of paper on which a message (such as a prediction about your future) is printed

fortune hunter *noun, pl ~ -ters* [*count*] : a person who is trying to become very wealthy especially by marrying a wealthy person

for-tune-tell-er /'fɔətʃən,telə/ *noun, pl -ers* [*count*] : a person who claims to use special powers to tell what will happen to someone in the future : a person who tells people's fortunes

– **for-tune-tell-ing** /'fɔətʃən,telɪŋ/ *noun* [*noncount*]

for-ty /'fɔəti/ *noun, pl for-ties*

1 [*count*] : the number 40

2 **forties** [*plural*] **a** : the numbers ranging from 40 to 49 • The temperature outside is in the high *forties*. **b** : a set of years ending in digits ranging from 40 to 49 • She is in her *forties*. • She found some old record albums from the *forties*. [=from 1940–1949]

– **for-ti-eth** /'fɔətɪjəθ/ *noun, pl -eths* [*count*] • one *fortieth* of the total – **fortieth** *adj* • his *fortieth* birthday – **forty** *adj* • *forty* days – **forty** *pronoun* • *forty* of her classmates – **for-ty-ish** /'fɔətɪʃ/ *adj* • He was tall, *fortyish* [=about 40 years old], and had glasses and brown hair.

for-ty-five /,fɔəti'faɪv/ *noun, pl -fives* [*count*]

1 : a small gun : a type of pistol — usually written .45

2 : a small record with one song on each side — usually written 45

forty winks *noun* [*plural*] *informal* : a short sleep : a brief nap • I had time to catch *forty winks* before the flight.

fo-rum /'fɔrəm/ *noun, pl forums* also **fo-ra** /'fɔrə/ [*count*]

1 : a meeting at which a subject can be discussed • *Forums* were held to determine how to handle the situation. • The town has scheduled a public *forum* to discuss the proposal. • an open *forum*

2 : a place or opportunity for discussing a subject • The club provides a *forum* for people who share an interest in local history. • an online *forum*

3 : a large public place in an ancient Roman city that was used as the center of business

¹**for-ward** /'fɔəwəd/ also *chiefly Brit* **for-wards** /'fɔə,wədz/ *adv*

1 : toward the front : to or toward what is ahead or in front • a sudden movement *forward* • moved/pushed backward and *forward* • Her long hair fell *forward* as she bent to tie her shoes. • He pushed the throttle *forward*. • She took a small step *forward*.

2 : toward the future • Remember to set the clock *forward* [=ahead] (by) an hour. • The narrative moves backward and *forward* in time. • from that time *forward* • Economists expect these trends to *carry forward* [=continue in the same way] into the next quarter.

3 : to or toward a more advanced state or condition • Our plans are moving *forward*. [=our plans are progressing] • The technology has taken a big step/leap *forward*. • I don't want to *go forward* [=proceed] without a contract. • We're *going forward* with the sale of the house. [=continuing to make the sale happen; not stopping the sale]

bring forward see BRING

come forward see ¹COME

forward of formal : in a position that is ahead of (something) : in front of (something) • The valves are located just *forward of* the fuel tanks.

know something backward and forward see ¹KNOW

look forward to see ¹LOOK

put forward see ¹PUT

put your best foot forward see ¹FOOT

²forward *adj*

1 *always used before a noun* : near or belonging to the front part of something • the *forward* deck of a boat

2 *always used before a noun* **a** : moving or directed ahead or toward the front • a sudden *forward* movement • a *forward* somersault **b** : moving toward the future or toward a more advanced state or condition • the *forward* movement of history/technology

3 [*more ~; most ~*] : too confident or direct in social situations • a *forward* [=brash] manner/question • a very *forward* young woman

— **for-ward-ness** *noun* [noncount] • the *forwardness* of his manner/question

³forward *verb* -wards; -ward-ed; -ward-ing [+ *obj*]

1 **a** : to send (something you have received, such as a letter) to someone else • Your letter will be *forwarded* to the appropriate department. • *forward* an e-mail (message) to someone = *forward* someone an e-mail (message) **b** : to send (something that has arrived, such as a letter) to another place • Please *forward* my mail to my new address. — see also FORWARDING ADDRESS

2 : to help (something) make progress or continue to a more advanced state • He's always happy to *forward* [=promote, advance] a friend's career.

— see also FAST-FORWARD

⁴forward *noun, pl* -wards [count] *sports* : a player who plays near the opponent's goal • a soccer/basketball/hockey *forward*

forwarding address *noun, pl ~ -dress-es* [count] : an address that you give to someone when you move to a different place so that any mail that comes to your old address can be sent to you • She didn't leave a *forwarding address*.

for-ward-look-ing /'fɔ:wəd,lʊkɪŋ/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] *approving* : relating to the future • *forward-looking* [=innovative] ideas/plans/products : planning for the future • *forward-looking* [=farsighted] engineers/politicians/industrialists — opposite BACKWARD-LOOKING

forward pass *noun, pl ~ passes* [count] *American football* : a pass made in the direction of the opponents' goal

for-ward-think-ing /'fɔ:wəd,θɪŋkɪŋ/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] : thinking about the future : FORWARD-LOOKING • a *forward-thinking* company

fos-sil /'fɔ:səl/ *noun, pl* -sils [count]

1 : something (such as a leaf, skeleton, or footprint) that is from a plant or animal which lived in ancient times and that you can see in some rocks • a dinosaur *fossil* — sometimes used before another noun • *fossil* [=fossilized] footprints

2 *informal* : a person whose ideas are very old-fashioned or out-of-date • He says the school's directors are a bunch of old *fossils*. [=fogies]

fossil fuel *noun, pl ~ fuels* : a fuel (such as coal, oil, or natural gas) that is formed in the earth from dead plants or animals [count] oil and other *fossil fuels* [noncount] sources of *fossil fuel*

fos-sil-ize also *Brit fos-sil-ise* /'fɔ:sə,ləɪz/ *verb* -iz-es; -ized; -iz-ing : to become a fossil or to cause (something) to become a fossil [no *obj*] Few animals ever *fossilize*. [+ *obj*] The mud helped to preserve and *fossilize* the wood.

— **fos-sil-i-za-tion** also *Brit fos-sil-i-sa-tion* /,fɔ:sələ'zeɪʃən, Brit /fɔ:sə,ləɪ'zeɪʃən/ *noun* [noncount]

fossilized also *Brit fos-sil-ised* *adj*

1 : having been changed into a fossil • *fossilized* dinosaur eggs • *fossilized* bones

2 *disapproving* : very old-fashioned and unlikely to change • *fossilized* attitudes about the rights of women

¹fos-ter /'fɔ:stə/ *verb* -ters; -tered; -ter-ing

1 [+ *obj*] : to help (something) grow or develop • We are trying to *foster* [=encourage, promote] a sense of community. • Such conditions *foster* the spread of the disease.

2 : to provide the care that a parent usually gives to a child : to be or become the foster parent of a child [+ *obj*] Would you consider *fostering* a child? [no *obj*] (*chiefly Brit*) Would you consider *fostering*?

²foster *adj, always used before a noun* — used to describe a situation in which for a period of time a child lives with and is cared for by people who are not the child's parents • They are *foster* parents to three *foster* children. • She's in *foster* care. = She's in a *foster* home. [=she is living in a home with and being taken care of by foster parents]

fought *past tense and past participle of* ¹FIGHT**¹foul** /'fauəl/ *adj* *foul-er; -est* [*or more ~; most ~*]

1 : very unpleasant to taste or smell • the *foul* odor of rotten

eggs • *foul* breath/air • The medicine left a *foul* taste in my mouth. • a *foul*-smelling chemical

2 : morally bad : very evil • a *foul* crime

3 : very bad or unpleasant • He was in a *foul* [=angry] mood. • The weather has been *foul* all week. • They do their job in fair weather and *foul*. [=in good weather and bad weather]

4 : indecent and offensive • *foul* [=dirty] language • She has a *foul* mouth. [=she uses foul language; she speaks in an indecent and offensive way] — see also FOUL-MOUTHED

5 : very unfair : not morally or socially acceptable • He's determined to get what he wants, whether by fair means or *foul*. — see also FOUL PLAY

6 *baseball* : outside the area between the foul lines • *foul* territory • a *foul* grounder ✧ A *foul* ball is a batted ball that lands in the area outside the foul lines. — compare ¹FAIR

fall foul of : to get into trouble because of (the law, a rule, etc.) • After leaving school she *fell foul of* the law. [=she got into trouble with the law; she was arrested for committing a crime] • companies that *fall foul of* labor laws

— **foul-ly** *adv* • He was *foully* [=brutally] murdered. — **foul-ness** *noun* [noncount] • the *foulness* of the water/air/odor • the *foulness* of his crimes/mood

²foul *noun, pl* fouls [count]

1 *sports* : an action that is against the rules and for which a player is given a penalty • She committed three *fouls*. = She was charged with three *fouls*. • a basketball player in *foul* trouble [=a player who has committed several fouls; a player who is close to fouling out] — see also PERSONAL FOUL, PROFESSIONAL FOUL, TECHNICAL FOUL, *foul out* at ³FOUL

2 *baseball* : a batted ball that lands outside the foul lines : a foul ball • He hit several *fouls* in a row. — see also *foul out* at ³FOUL

cry foul see ¹CRY

³foul *verb* fouls; fouled; foul-ing

1 [+ *obj*] : to make (a substance, place, etc.) dirty • pollutants that *foul* the air • *fouling* [=befouling] the sacred waters

2 *sports* **a** [no *obj*] : to commit a foul • She *fouled* on her first long jump attempt. **b** [+ *obj*] : to commit a foul against (another player) • The other team has *fouled* him [=hit him, held him, etc.] repeatedly. • He was *fouled* as he attempted the shot.

3 [+ *obj*] *baseball* : to hit (a pitched ball) so that it lands outside the foul lines • He kept *fouling* pitches/balls into the stands. — often + *off* • He *fouled off* several pitches in a row.

4 [+ *obj*] : to become twisted around (something) so that it cannot move, be used, etc. • The anchor's rope *fouled* the propeller.

foul out [*phrasal verb*] 1 *basketball* : to be forced to leave a game because you have made too many fouls • She *fouled out* (of the game) without scoring a point. 2 *baseball, of a batter* : to make an out by hitting a foul fly ball ball that is caught by a fielder • The batter *fouled out* to the first baseman.

foul up [*phrasal verb*] *informal* 1 *foul (something) up* : to ruin or spoil (something) • The weather has *fouled up* our plans. : to ruin or spoil (something) by making a mistake or being careless • She *fouled up* [=ruined, messed up] our plans by forgetting to make the reservations. 2 *foul up* : to make mistakes : to fail at something because you have made a mistake or been careless • Whenever I try to be clever, I usually *foul up*. [=mess up] — see also FOUL-UP

foul line *noun, pl ~ lines* [count]

1 *baseball* : either one of two straight lines that go from home plate through first and third base on to the edge of the outfield • The ball landed just inside the right-field *foul line*.

2 *basketball* : a line from which a player shoots free throws

foul-mouthed /'faʊl,məʊθ/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] : using indecent or offensive language : having a foul mouth • *foul-mouthed* students

foul play *noun* [noncount]

1 : criminal violence or murder • She is still missing, and the police now suspect that she may have been a victim of *foul play*. [=that she may have been murdered or harmed in some way] • There is no evidence of *foul play*.

2 : unfair or dishonest acts • The company's deal with the government has brought *cries/accusations of foul play* [=claims that there have been unfair or dishonest acts] from its competitors.

foul shot *noun, pl ~ shots* [count] *basketball* : FREE THROW

foul-up /'faʊl,ʌp/ *noun, pl* -ups [count] *informal* : a problem caused by someone making a mistake or being careless •

They had to deal with yet another administrative *foul-up*.
— see also *foul up* at ³FOUL

¹**found** *past tense and past participle of* ¹FIND

²**found** /'faʊnd/ *verb* **found**s; **found-ed**; **found-ing** [+ *obj*]
1 : to begin or create (something that is meant to last for a long time) : ESTABLISH • *found* a colony/museum/college • The college was *founded* in 1793.
2 : to provide support for something — usually used as (*be*) *founded* • His suspicions were *founded* [=based] on nothing more than rumor. — see also UNFOUNDED, WELL-FOUNDED

foun-da-tion /faʊn'deɪʃən/ *noun*, *pl* -**tions**

1 [*count*] **a** : a usually stone or concrete structure that supports a building from underneath • The inspector discovered a crack in the house's *foundation*. • pour/lay/dig the *foundation* **b** : something (such as an idea, a principle, or a fact) that provides support for something • He insists that these charges are without *foundation*. [=are unfounded] • These charges have no *foundation* in fact. [=there are no facts that support these charges] • The book explains the moral *foundations* on which her political career was built. • These problems threaten the very *foundations* of modern society. • The scandal has shaken the government to its *foundations*. • Her early research *laid the foundation* [=provided the basis] for many important medical discoveries.

2 [*count*] : an organization that is created and supported with money that people give in order to do something that helps society • They established a *foundation* to help orphaned children. • set up a *foundation* • a charitable/non-profit/private *foundation*

3 [*count, noncount*] : a special cream that is the color of your skin and that you spread on your face and neck before putting on other makeup

4 [*noncount*] : the act of founding something • the *foundation* of a new school

¹**found-er** /'faʊndə/ *noun*, *pl* -**ers** [*count*] : a person who creates or establishes something that is meant to last for a long time (such as a business or school) : a person who founds something • the *founder* of a newspaper empire • He's the son of the company's *founder*.

²**foun-der** /'faʊndə/ *verb* -**ers**; -**dered**; -**der-ing** [*no obj*]

1 : to experience failure : to be unsuccessful : FAIL • Her career *foundered*, and she moved from job to job for several years. • Their marriage is *foundering*. • trying to save a *foundering* career/marriage

2 *of a boat or ship* : to fill with water and sink • a *foundering* ship

founding father *noun*, *pl* ~ -**thers** [*count*]

1 : a person who helps to create or establish something : a person who founds something • He is now recognized as one of the *founding fathers* [=founders] of the environmental movement.

2 *or Founding Father* : a man who had an important part in creating the government of the U.S.; *specifically* : a member of the American Constitutional Convention of 1787 • a tribute to Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson, and the other *Founding Fathers*

founding member *noun*, *pl* ~ -**bers** [*count*] : an original member of a group (such as a club or corporation) — called also (US) *charter member*, (Brit) *founder member*

found-ling /'faʊndlɪŋ/ *noun*, *pl* -**lings** [*count*] : a baby that is found after being left by its parents

found-ry /'faʊndri/ *noun*, *pl* -**ries** [*count*] : a building or factory where metals are produced

fount /'faʊnt/ *noun*, *pl* **founts** [*count*]

1 *somewhat old-fashioned + literary* : the source of something • Our tour guide was a *fount* of information about the city's history. • a *fount* of knowledge/justice/wisdom • (*humorous*) You know the answer to that one too? Why, you're a regular *fount* of wisdom. [=you know everything]

2 *Brit* : ²FONT

foun-tain /'faʊntɪn/ *noun*, *pl* -**tains** [*count*]

1 **a** : a device or structure that sends a stream of water into the air in a garden, park, etc. • an elaborate marble *fountain* • The crowd gathered around the *fountain* in the plaza.; *also* : the water that rises from a fountain • a *fountain* of water — see also DRINKING FOUNTAIN, SODA FOUNTAIN **b** : something that rises into the air like a fountain of water • a *fountain* of flame/sparks

2 : the source of something • She is a *fountain* [=fount] of knowledge/wisdom. • an endless *fountain* of inspiration

foun-tain-head /'faʊntɪn,hed/ *noun*, *pl* -**heads** [*count*] *literary* : the origin or source of something • the *fountainhead* of the faith

fountain of youth *noun*, *pl* **fountains of youth** [*count*]

1 *or Fountain of Youth* in stories and legends : a fountain with magic water ♦ According to legend, anyone who drinks water from the Fountain of Youth will live forever.

2 : a source of the kind of energy or health that young people usually have • Exercise is good for you, but it's not a perfect *fountain of youth*.

fountain pen *noun*, *pl* ~ **pens** [*count*]

: a pen with ink inside that flows to a special metal tip (called a nib)

four /'foʊ/ *noun*, *pl* **fours**

1 [*count*] : the number 4

2 [*count*] : the fourth in a set or series • the *four* of hearts

3 [*noncount*] : four o'clock • "What time is it?" "It's *four*." • I leave each day at *four*.

— see also ALL FOURS

— **four** *adj* • waiting for *four* hours — **four** *pronoun* • *Four* (of them) are broken.

4x4 *also four-by-four* /'foʊbaɪ,foʊ/ *noun*, *pl* **4x4s** *also four-by-fours* [*count*] *US* : a vehicle (such as a truck) that has four wheels and four-wheel drive

four-fold /'foʊ,foʊld/ *adj* : four times as great or as many •

There has been a *fourfold* increase in membership this year.

— **fourfold** *adv* • Membership has increased *fourfold*.

4-H /'foʊ'eɪtʃ/ *adj* : of or relating to a government program in the U.S. that teaches farming skills and good citizenship to young people • a *4-H* club

four-letter word *noun*, *pl* ~ **words** [*count*]

1 : an offensive word and especially an offensive word that has four letters : DIRTY WORD 1 • a book that contains a lot of *four-letter words*

2 : a word, subject, or idea that is disliked by some people : DIRTY WORD 2 • "Tax" is a *four-letter word* as far as he's concerned.

401(k) /'foʊ,ou,wən'keɪ/ *noun*, *pl* **401(k)s** [*count*] *US* : a method by which the workers in a company can save money for their retirement by having an amount of money saved from their paychecks over a long period of time

four-post-er /'foʊ'pəʊstə/ *noun*, *pl* -**ers** [*count*] : a bed with tall posts at each of its four corners — called also *four-poster bed*

four-score /'foʊ'skɔʊ/ *adj*, *formal* + *old-fashioned* : EIGHTY • "Fourscore and seven [=87] years ago..." —Abraham Lincoln, Gettysburg Address (1863)

four-some /'foʊsəm/ *noun*, *pl* -**somes** [*count*] : a group of four people or things • a *foursome* of golfers = a golfing *four-some*

four-square /'foʊ'skweə/ *adj*

1 : having a square shape • *foursquare* houses/buildings

2 [*more ~; most ~*] *formal* : strong and direct : FORTH-RIGHT • her *foursquare* support for the proposal

— **foursquare** *adv* • They are lined up *foursquare* [=firmly, forthrightly] against him. • She came out *foursquare* [=strongly] in support of the proposal.

four-star /'foʊ'stɑː/ *adj*, *always used before a noun* : of very high quality • a *four-star* hotel/restaurant

four-teen /foʊ'ti:n/ *noun*, *pl* -**teens** [*count*] : the number 14

— **fourteen** *adj* • *fourteen* days — **fourteen** *pronoun* • *Fourteen* (of them) are gone. — **fourteenth** /foʊ'ti:nθ/ *noun*, *pl* -**teenths** [*count*] • The bill is due on the *fourteenth* (of the month). • one *fourteenth* of the total — **fourteenth** *adj* • I finished (the race) in *fourteenth* place. — **fourteenth** *adv* • I finished *fourteenth* in the race. • the nation's *fourteenth* largest city

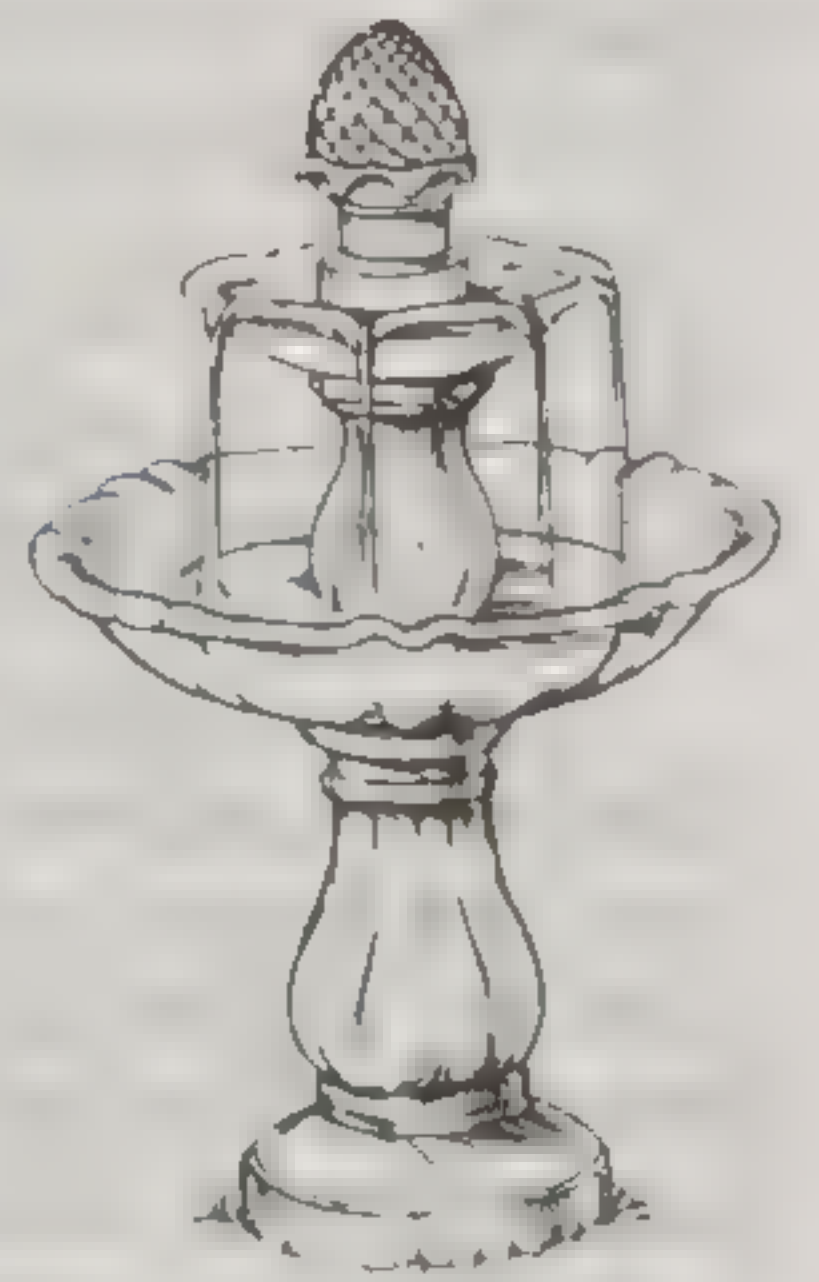
¹**fourth** /'foʊθ/ *noun*, *pl* **fourths**

1 [*singular*] : number four in a series • I'll be flying in on the *fourth*. [=the fourth day of the month] • He got a base hit in the *fourth*. [=the fourth inning]

2 [*count*] : one of four equal parts of something • cut the cake into *fourths* • She drank a *fourth* of the bottle.

3 [*noncount*] : the fourth forward gear or speed of a car, truck, etc. • He shifted into *fourth*.

4 *the Fourth* : INDEPENDENCE DAY • watching fireworks on *the Fourth*



fountain

F

²fourth *adj*

1 : occupying the number four position in a series • on the *fourth* day • the book's *fourth* edition • her *fourth* goal of the season

2 — used to refer to one of the forward gears or speeds of a vehicle • *fourth* gear

— **fourth** *adv* • She finished *fourth* in the race. • the *fourth* highest mountain

fourth estate or **Fourth Estate** *noun* [*singular*] : the people and organizations who report the news : journalists as a group • a member of the *Fourth Estate*

Fourth of July *noun* [*singular*] : INDEPENDENCE DAY

four-wheel /'foʊ,wɪ:l/ also **four-wheeled** /'foʊ,wɪ:ld/ *adj*, always used before a noun : having four wheels • a *four-wheel* vehicle

four-wheel drive *noun* [*noncount*] : a system that applies engine power directly to all four wheels of a vehicle • a truck equipped with *four-wheel drive*

fowl /'fawəl/ *noun*, *pl* **fowl** also **fowls**

1 **a** [*count*] : a bird (such as a chicken) that is raised for food — usually plural • raising domestic *fowl* • The young *fowl*/*fowls* are fully independent when they hatch. **b** [*noncount*] : the meat of such a bird used as food • roasted *fowl*

2 [*count*] *old-fashioned + humorous* : a bird of any kind • I spotted a long-legged *fowl* by the water's edge. — see also GUINEA FOWL, WATERFOWL, WILDFOWL

neither fish nor fowl see ¹FISH

¹**fox** /'fɑ:ks/ *noun*, *pl* **fox-es**

1 **a** [*count*] : a small wild animal that is related to dogs and that has a long pointed nose and a bushy tail **b** [*noncount*] : the fur of a fox — often used before another noun • a *fox* coat

2 [*count*] : a clever person • He's a wily/sly old *fox*. • She's *crazy like a fox*. [=she seems foolish or strange but is actually very clever]

3 [*count*] *US, informal* : an attractive person • She's a real *fox*. [=she's a very attractive woman]

²**fox** *verb* **foxes; foxed; fox-ing** [+ *obj*] chiefly *Brit*

1 : to trick or fool (someone) • They *foxed* me into telling the secret. — compare *OUTFOX*

2 : to confuse (someone) • The problem had us *foxed*!

fox-glove /'fɑ:ks,glʌv/ *noun*, *pl* **-gloves** [*count*] : a tall plant that has many white or purple bell-shaped flowers growing on its stem

fox-hole /'fɑ:ks,houl/ *noun*, *pl* **-holes** [*count*] : a hole dug for a soldier to sit or lie in for protection from the enemy

fox-hound /'fɑ:ks,haund/ *noun*, *pl* **-hounds** [*count*] : a type of quick and strong dog that is often trained to hunt foxes

fox-hunt-ing /'fɑ:ks,hʌntɪŋ/ *noun* [*noncount*] : an activity in which people riding horses hunt foxes by using specially trained dogs

fox terrier *noun*, *pl* ~ **-ers** [*count*] : a type of small and lively dog

fox-trot /'fɑ:ks,trɔ:t/ *noun*, *pl* **-trots** [*count*] : a formal dance that includes slow walking steps and quick running steps; also : the music for this dance • The band played a *fox-trot*.

foxy /'fɑ:ksi/ *adj* **fox-i-er; -est**

1 : resembling or suggesting a fox • a narrow *foxy* face

2 : very clever • a *foxy* politician/strategy

3 *US, informal* : physically attractive : SEXY • a *foxy* lady

foyer /'foɪə, 'foɪ,eɪ/ *noun*, *pl* **-ers** [*count*]

1 : an open area in a public building (such as a hotel or theater) near the entrance : a lobby or entrance hall

2 *US* : an open area near the entrance in someone's home

fr. *abbr* 1 father 2 franc 3 from

Fr. *abbr* 1 France; French 2 Friday

fra-cas /'freɪkəs, Brit 'fræ,kɑ:/ *noun*, *pl* **fra-cas-es** (*US*) or *Brit* **fracas** [*count*] : a noisy argument or fight — usually singular • a drunken *fracas* • a minor *fracas*

frac-tion /'frækʃən/ *noun*, *pl* **-tions** [*count*]

1 *mathematics* : a number (such as $\frac{1}{2}$ or $\frac{3}{4}$) which indicates that one number is being divided by another; also : a number (such as 3.323) that consists of a whole number and a decimal

2 : a part or amount of something • a *fraction* of an inch/second • We've described only a small *fraction* [=portion] of the available options. • The new program will provide similar benefits at a *fraction* of the cost (of the old one). [=at much less cost; for much less money] • The new technology allows us to complete the job in a *fraction* of the time [=in much less time] it formerly took.

frac-tion-al /'frækʃənəl/ *adj*

1 *mathematics* : of or relating to a fraction • *fractional* numbers

2 **a** : very small • There has been a *fractional* rise in the price of the stock. • There is only a *fractional* improvement in the new version. • a *fractional* amount **b** : not complete • *fractional* [=partial] ownership

— **frac-tion-al-ly** *adv* • The stock's price rose *fractionally*. [=slightly]

frac-tious /'frækʃəs/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]

1 : causing trouble : hard to manage or control • *fractious* [=unruly] children • The *fractious* crowd grew violent.

2 : full of anger and disagreement • a *fractious* relationship • *fractious* negotiations • a *fractious* political campaign

— **frac-tious-ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

¹**frac-ture** /'frækʃə/ *noun*, *pl* **-tures** [*count*] : the result of breaking something : a crack or break • a *fracture* in the Earth's crust; especially : a broken bone • She suffered a wrist *fracture* when she slipped on the ice. — see also COMPOUND FRACTURE, SIMPLE FRACTURE, STRESS FRACTURE

²**fracture** *verb* **-tures; -tured; -tur-ing**

1 [+ *obj*] **a** : to cause a crack or break in (something hard, such as a bone) • She *fractured* [=broke] her wrist when she slipped on the ice. **b** [*no obj*] of something hard : to crack or break • Her wrist *fractured* when she fell on the ice.

2 : to damage or destroy (something) or to be damaged or destroyed in a sudden or violent way [+ *obj*] Their happiness was *fractured* by an unforeseen tragedy. • These problems may *fracture* the unity of the two parties. [*no obj*] Their fragile happiness/unity *fractured* all too soon.

fractured *adj*

1 : having a crack or break • a badly *fractured* [=broken] wrist • a *fractured* skull/rib • *fractured* rocks

2 : spoken with many mistakes : not fluent • They couldn't understand my *fractured* [=broken] French.

3 : damaged or destroyed in a sudden or violent way • *fractured* happiness/unity

frag-ile /'frædʒəl, 'fræ,dʒəjəl/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : easily broken or damaged • the flower's *fragile* petals • Her health has always been very *fragile*. • *fragile* bones • an artist with a *fragile* ego • He is in an emotionally *fragile* state. : very delicate • her *fragile* beauty : not strong • The two countries have formed a *fragile* coalition. • a *fragile* cease-fire

— **fra-gil-i-ty** /frə'dʒɪləti/ *noun* [*noncount*] • the *fragility* of her health

¹**frag-ment** /'frægmənt/ *noun*, *pl* **-ments** [*count*]

1 : a broken part or piece of something • bone *fragments* • a pottery *fragment* • The dish lay in *fragments* on the floor.

2 : an incomplete part • I could only hear *fragments* of their conversation. — see also SENTENCE FRAGMENT

²**frag-ment** /'frægmənt, Brit fræg'mənt/ *verb* **-ments; -ment-ed; -ment-ing** : to break or to cause (something) to break into parts or pieces [*no obj*] The party is *fragmenting* into warring factions. [+ *obj*] These issues are *fragmenting* our society. • The property is being *fragmented* into subdivisions.

— **frag-men-ta-tion** /,frægmən'teɪʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*] • the increasing *fragmentation* of society — **fragmented** *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] • We live in an increasingly *fragmented* society. • a *fragmented* market

frag-men-tary /'frægmən'teri, Brit 'frægməntri/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : made up of parts or pieces : made up of fragments • discovering *fragmentary* remains of primitive animals • *fragmentary* [=incomplete] evidence/fossils/memories • *fragmentary* information/knowledge

fra-grance /'freɪgrəns/ *noun*, *pl* **-granc-es** [*count*]

1 : a pleasant and usually sweet smell • a flower with a lovely *fragrance*

2 : a perfume or cologne • the company's newest *fragrance*

fra-grant /'freɪgrənt/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : having a pleasant and usually sweet smell • a *fragrant* flower • The soup was *fragrant* with herbs and spices.

fraîche see CRÈME FRAÎCHE

fraidy-cat /'freɪdi,kæt/ *noun*, *pl* **-cats** [*count*] *US, informal*



fox

: SCAREDY-CAT — used mainly by children or when speaking to children • Don't be such a *fraidy-cat*!

frail /'freil/ *adj* **frail-er; -est**

1 : having less than a normal amount of strength or force : very weak • a *frail* child • a *frail* old man • I could barely hear her *frail* [=weak] voice. • In his old age his health became increasingly *frail*. **synonyms** see WEAK

2 : easily damaged or destroyed • a small and *frail* ship — **frail-ness** *noun* [noncount] • the *frailness* [(more commonly) *frailty*] of his health

frail-ty /'freilti/ *noun*, *pl* **-ties**

1 [noncount] : physical weakness : the quality or state of being frail • the old man's *frailty* • the *frailty* of her voice/health
2 : weakness of character that causes a person to do things that are morally wrong [noncount] He is not immune to human *frailty*. [=he sometimes fails to do what is fair, honest, etc.] [count] We can no longer be surprised by the *frailties* of our political leaders.

frame /'freim/ *noun*, *pl* **frames**

1 [count] : the basic structure and shape of the body of a person or animal • She had to extend every inch of her five-foot *frame* [=body] to reach the top shelf. • her petite/slight/thin/wiry *frame* • his large/lanky/lean *frame*

2 [count] : an arrangement of parts that support and form the basic shape of something • the *frame* of a house • a bicycle *frame* • the car's steel *frame*

3 **a** [count] : an open structure that holds something (such as glass or a picture) • a picture/window/door *frame* — see also COLD FRAME **b frames** [plural] : the plastic or metal structure that holds the lenses of eyeglasses • I need new *frames* for my glasses.

4 [count] **a** : one of the pictures in the series of pictures that make up a film • The film runs at eight *frames* per second. — see also FREEZE-FRAME **b** : one of the drawings in the series of drawings that make up a comic strip

5 [count] *computers* : a section of a Web page that is like a small separate page : a section of a Web page that has its own scroll bar

6 [count] *Brit* : ¹RACK 6

in the frame *Brit, informal* : in the position of being considered for something • a job candidate who is still *in the frame*

out of the frame *Brit, informal* : no longer in the position of being considered for something • a job candidate who is *out of the frame*

— see also TIME FRAME

frame *verb* **frames; framed; fram-ing** [+ *obj*]

1 **a** : to put (something) inside an open structure that holds it : to put (something) in a frame • *frame* a picture • a *framed* photograph • paintings *framed* with/in wood • steel-framed spectacles **b** : to be around the edge of (something) — usually used as (be) *framed* • a house *framed* by a white picket fence • The child's face *was framed* by brown curls.

2 : to produce (something written or spoken) • It was the first state to *frame* a written constitution. : to express (a question, answer, etc.) in words • She *framed* her questions carefully. • He took the time to *frame* a thoughtful reply.

3 : to make (an innocent person) appear to be guilty of a crime • She claims that she was *framed*. — see also FRAME-UP

— **fram-er** *noun*, *pl* **-ers** [count] • a picture *framer* • the *fram-ers* of the U.S. Constitution [=the people who wrote the U.S. Constitution]

frame of mind *noun*, *pl* **frames of mind** [count] : the way someone is feeling : a person's emotional state : MOOD • Wait until he's in a better *frame of mind*. • a cheerful/happy/relaxed *frame of mind* • a serious/somber *frame of mind*

frame of reference *noun*, *pl* **frames of reference** [count] : a set of ideas, conditions, experiences, etc., that affect how something is thought about or understood • Each person experiences art through his or her own *frame of reference*. • Her biographer tries to provide a *frame of reference* in which her work can be analyzed.

frame-up /'freim,ʌp/ *noun*, *pl* **-ups** [count] *informal* : a plan to make an innocent person appear to be guilty of a crime • She's the victim of a *frame-up*. — see also ²FRAME 3

frame-work /'freim,wæk/ *noun*, *pl* **-works** [count]

1 : the basic structure of something • These influences threaten the very *framework* of our society. : a set of ideas or facts that provide support for something • The book provides a general *framework* for understanding modern politics. • He questions the study's theoretical *framework*.

2 : a supporting structure : a structural frame • An iron *framework* surrounds the sculpture. • The panels are attached to the building's steel *framework*.

franc /'fræŋk/ *noun*, *pl* **francs** [count] : a basic unit of money that is used in some countries where French is spoken and that was formerly used in France, Luxembourg, and Belgium; *also* : a coin or bill representing one franc

fran-chise /'fræn,tʃaɪz/ *noun*, *pl* **-chis-es** [count]

1 : the right to sell a company's goods or services in a particular area • She was granted an exclusive *franchise* in the city's west end; *also* : a business that is given such a right • They just opened a new fast-food *franchise* down the street.

2 : the right to vote • The U.S. did not extend the *franchise* to women until the early 20th century.

3 *US, sports* : a team that is a member of a professional sports league • He's the best player in the history of the *franchise*. ♦ In U.S. and Canadian English, a *franchise player* is the best and most important player on a particular professional sports team.

franchise *verb* **-chises; -chised; -chis-ing** [+ *obj*] : to offer the right to sell (your company's goods or services) in a particular area • Most of the restaurants are owned by the company, but 15 are *franchised* restaurants. [=are owned and operated by people who have a franchise]

fran-chi-see /,fræn,tʃaɪ'zi:/ *noun*, *pl* **-sees** [count] : someone who has been given the right to sell a company's goods or services in a particular area : a person who has been granted a franchise

Fran-co- /,fræŋkou/ *combining form*

1 : French • *Franco-German*

2 : France, French culture, or the French • a *Francophile* [=a person who greatly likes and admires France and French things] • a *Francophobe* [=a person who dislikes France and French things]

Fran-co-Amer-i-can /,fræŋkowə'merəkən/ *noun*, *pl* **-cans** [count] : an American whose family comes originally from France

— **Franco-American** *adj*

Fran-co-phone /'fræŋkə,foun/ *adj* : having French as the main language • the region's *Francophone* population • a *Francophone* neighborhood in an English-speaking country

— **Francophone** *noun*, *pl* **-phones** [count] • a neighborhood that includes many *Francophones* [=people who speak French as their main language]

frank /'fræŋk/ *adj* **frank-er; -est** [also more ~; most ~] — used to say that someone is speaking or writing in a very direct and honest way • She gave me some very *frank* criticism. • Don't be afraid to be perfectly/completely *frank* with me. • To be brutally *frank* with you, I don't think you're good enough. • We had a full and *frank* discussion.

— **frank-ness** *noun* [noncount] • She spoke with surprising *frankness*.

frank *noun*, *pl* **franks** [count] *US, informal* : FRANKFURTER, HOT DOG • We ate *franks* and beans for lunch.

frank-furt-er /'fræŋk,fətə/ *noun*, *pl* **-ers** [count] : HOT DOG

1 **frank-in-cense** /'fræŋkən,sens/ *noun* [noncount] : a substance that is burned for its sweet smell and that was used in religious ceremonies in ancient times

frank-ly /'fræŋkli/ *adv* : in an honest and direct way • You can speak *frankly* to us. — often used to introduce a statement that tells your true opinion, reason, etc. • *Frankly*, I think your essay needs more work. [=I am being honest when I tell you that your essay needs more work]

fran-tic /'fræntik/ *adj* [more ~; most ~]

1 : feeling or showing a lot of fear and worry • *frantic* cries for help • The girl was *frantic* with fear/worry. • They made a *frantic* search for the missing child. • a *frantic* phone call

2 : having a lot of wild and hurried activity • They were making *frantic* preparations for the party. • a *frantic* attempt/effort to finish on schedule

— **fran-ti-cal-ly** /'fræntikli/ *adv* • searching *frantically*

frat /'fræt/ *noun*, *pl* **frats** [count] *US, informal* : FRATERNITY
1 — often used before another noun • a *frat party* [=a party given by a fraternity] • a *frat boy* [=a member of a fraternity]

fra-ter-nal /frə'tənl/ *adj*

1 : of or relating to brothers • *fraternal* love

2 : made up of members who share an interest or purpose • He belonged to a *fraternal* organization.

3 : friendly or brotherly • There was a *fraternal* feeling among the troops.

— **fra-ter-nal-ly** *adv*

fraternal twin *noun*, *pl* ~ **twins** [*count*] : either member of a pair of twins that are produced from different eggs and may not have the same sex or appearance — compare IDENTICAL TWIN

fra-ter-ni-ty /frə'tənəti/ *noun*, *pl* -**ties**

1 [*count*] : an organization of male students at a U.S. college — compare SORORITY

2 [*count*] : a group of people who have the same job, interests, etc. • the racing *fraternity* [=people who are involved or interested in racing] • the legal *fraternity*

3 [*noncount*] *formal* : the feeling of friendship that exists between people in a group • an atmosphere of *fraternity* and cooperation

frat-er-nize also *Brit* **frat-er-nise** /'frætə'naɪz/ *verb* -**nizes**; -**nized**; -**niz-ing** [*no obj*] : to be friendly with someone : to spend time with someone in a friendly way especially when it is considered wrong or improper to do so • It is usually unwise to *fraternize* with your employees. • The soldiers were caught *fraternizing* (with the enemy).

— **frat-er-ni-za-tion** also *Brit* **frat-er-ni-sa-tion** /,frætənə'zeɪʃən, *Brit* /frætənəɪ'zeɪʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*]

— **frat-er-niz-er** also *Brit* **frat-er-nis-er** /'frætə'naɪzə/ *noun*, *pl* -**ers** [*count*]

frat-ri-cide /'frætə'saɪd/ *noun*, *pl* -**cides** [*count*] : the crime of murdering your own brother or sister; also : a person who has committed this crime — compare MATRICIDE, PATRICIDE

— **frat-ri-cid-al** /,frætə'saɪd/ *adj*

fraud /'fra:d/ *noun*, *pl* **frauds**

1 : the crime of using dishonest methods to take something valuable from another person [*noncount*] He was found guilty of bank *fraud*. • credit card *fraud* [*count*] He was the victim of an elaborate *fraud*. — see also WIRE FRAUD

2 [*count*] **a** : a person who pretends to be what he or she is not in order to trick people • He claimed he was a licensed psychologist, but he turned out to be a *fraud*. **b** : a copy of something that is meant to look like the real thing in order to trick people • The UFO picture was proved to be a *fraud*.

fraud-ster /'fra:dstə/ *noun*, *pl* -**sters** [*count*] chiefly *Brit* : a person who commits fraud

fraud-u-lent /'fra:dgələnt/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : done to trick someone for the purpose of getting something valuable • Corrupt leaders were chosen in a *fraudulent* election. • *fraudulent* use of a credit card • a *fraudulent* claim • the victim of a *fraudulent* scheme

— **fraud-u-lence** /'fra:dgələns/ *noun* [*noncount*] — **fraud-u-lent-ly** *adv*

fraught /'fra:t/ *adj* : causing or having a lot of emotional stress or worry : ANXIOUS • a *fraught* silence/atmosphere ✧ *Fraught* in this sense is more common in British English than in U.S. English.

fraught with : full of (something bad or unwanted) • The situation was *fraught with* danger. [=very dangerous] • The paper was poorly researched and *fraught with* errors.

¹**fray** /'freɪ/ *noun*, *pl* **frays** [*count*] : a fight, struggle, or disagreement that involves many people • He threw himself into the *fray*. • He joined/entered the political *fray*.

above the fray : not directly involved in an angry or difficult struggle or disagreement • His political aides handled the controversy while he remained *above the fray*.

²**fray** *verb* **frays**; **frayed**; **fray-ing** : to cause (a cloth or other material) to become worn down at the end or edge : to separate the threads of (a material) [+ *obj*] She *frayed* the edges of her cutoff jeans. = She *frayed* her cutoff jeans at the edges. [*no obj*] The cuffs of the old shirt were *fraying*. — often used figuratively • Her temper was starting to *fray*. [=she was beginning to get angry] • His nerves were *frayed/fraying*. • their *frayed/fraying* friendship

¹**fraz-zle** /'fræzəl/ *verb* **fraz-zles**; **fraz-zled**; **fraz-zling** [+ *obj*] *informal* : to make (someone) very nervous or upset • He's a clever player who knows how to *frazzle* his opponents. • *frazzle* someone's nerves

— **frazzled** *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] • feeling very tired and *frazzled* • *frazzled* nerves

²**frazzle** *noun*

to a frazzle *informal* **1** : to a very tired or nervous condition • By the end of the day, the waitress was *worn to a frazzle*. [=was exhausted] **2** *Brit* : to a state of being hard, dry, and easily broken • The toast had been *burned to a frazzle*. [=burned to a crisp]

¹**freak** /'fri:k/ *noun*, *pl* **freaks** [*count*]

1 a *disapproving* : a very strange or unusual person • Who's

that *freak* [=weirdo] with the green hair? • eccentric, artistic types whom many regarded as *freaks* • a hippie *freak* **b** *old-fashioned* + *sometimes offensive* : a person or animal that is physically abnormal • a circus *freak* • I had a terrible rash on my face, and I felt like a *freak*. • a *freak* show

2 *informal* : a person who is very interested or active in something specified • a magazine for computer *freaks* [=enthusiasts] • a fitness *freak* • a movie *freak* — see also CONTROL FREAK, NEAT FREAK

3 *informal* : a person who uses a specified illegal drug • a speed *freak*

4 : something (such as an event) that is very unusual or unexpected • Through some incredible *freak of fate* [=strange event] they survived the shipwreck. — see also FREAK OF NATURE

²**freak** *adj*, always used before a noun : not natural, normal, or likely • He was the victim of a *freak* accident. • a *freak* occurrence

³**freak** *verb* **freaks**; **freaked**; **freak-ing** *informal*

1 [+ *obj*] : to make (someone) very upset • He was a little *freaked* by the accident. — usually + *out* • He was a little *freaked out* by the accident. • It *freaks* me *out* to see people being so violent. • She was *freaked out* by what you said.

2 [*no obj*] : to become very upset • She really *freaked* when you said that. — often + *out* • She really *freaked out*. • He *freaked out* when he saw his girlfriend kiss another guy.

freaking /'fri:kɪŋ, 'fri:kɪŋ/ *adj*, *US*, *informal* + *impolite* — used to make an angry statement more forceful • Give me the *freaking* keys!

— **freaking** *adv* • She is so *freaking* annoying!

freak-ish /'fri:kɪʃ/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : very strange or abnormal • *freakish* weather • a *freakish* twist of fate

— **freak-ish-ly** *adv* • He has a *freakishly* large nose. • *freakishly* hot weather — **freak-ish-ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

freak of nature *noun*, *pl* **freaks of nature** [*count*] : a person or thing that is very unusual or abnormal • He's an amazing athlete—a real *freak of nature*. • The storm that destroyed the house was a *freak of nature*.

freaky /'fri:ki/ *adj* **freak-i-er**; -**est** *informal* : strange or unusual • That book was kind of *freaky*. • a *freaky* kid wearing a weird hat

¹**freck-le** /'fɹekəl/ *noun*, *pl* **freck-les** [*count*] : a small, brownish spot on someone's skin • a pale, redheaded girl with *freckles* across her cheeks • a *freckle*-faced girl

²**freckle** *verb* **freckles**; **freck-led**; **freck-ling** : to be or become marked with freckles or spots [*no obj*] His skin *freckles* but doesn't tan. [+ *obj*] Tiny black spots *freckled* the walls.

— **freckled** *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] • She has a *freckled* face. [=she has many freckles on her face]

¹**free** /'fri:/ *adj* **fre-er** **fre-est**

1 : not costing any money • They're giving out *free* tickets to the show. • The school newsletter is *free*. • *free* advice • *free* drinks/food • The tickets are *free for the taking*. [=anyone who wants one can take one] • The store is offering a calculator as a *free gift*. [=something that is given to people to help get new customers for a business]

2 a : not held as a slave or prisoner • After 10 years in jail, he was finally a *free* man. — often used after *set* • After 10 years, they finally *set* him *free*. **b** : not physically held by something • The animal struggled to get *free* of/from the trap. • His legs became caught in the net, and he was unable to get himself *free*.

3 : able to do what you want to do : able to move, go, or act without being stopped — followed by *to* + *verb* • You are *free* to leave. • You're (entirely) *free to do* whatever you want to do. • We were *free to choose* from among several options.

4 a : not controlled by a harsh ruler or laws • He dreamed of a day when his people would be *free*. • a *free* society • I can say whatever I want to say. This is a *free* country. **b** : not limited by government control • *free* competition • *free* and democratic elections • *free* speech — see also FREE ENTERPRISE, FREE MARKET, FREE TRADE

5 a : not limited by fear, uncertainty, etc. : OPEN • a *free* expression of opinions • a *free* exchange of ideas • Children are often *freer* and more imaginative than adults in their writing. **b** : not limited in any way • Your password allows you to have *free* access to the system. • The ships were allowed *free* passage into and out of the port. — see also FREE HAND, FREE LOVE, *free rein* at REIN

6 : not having, including, or suffering from something unpleasant, painful, or unwanted — usually + *from* or *of* • *free*

from worry/disease • The product is guaranteed to be *free of* major defects. • The speech was *free of* political rhetoric. • writing that is *free of* jargon — sometimes used in combination • jargon-free writing • sugar-free chewing gum • After struggling with her addiction for many years, she is finally drug-free. [=she has finally stopped using drugs] — see also SCOT-FREE

7 a : not required to be doing something : having nothing that must be done instead • I'm *free* tomorrow night. • We're having a party next Saturday. Are you *free*? **b of time** : not being used for work or other activities • Wednesday is her only *free* afternoon. • I wish I had more *free* time. • He spends a lot of his *free* time [=time when he is not working on his job] tinkering with his car.

8 a : not being used • I'm going to call my mother as soon as the phone is *free*. • "Excuse me: is this seat *free*?" "I'm sorry: it's taken." • There's not enough *free* space on my computer's hard drive to install the software. **b** : not holding anything • He waved at us with his *free* hand. **c** : not attached to anything • She held onto the *free* end of the rope.

9 : not covered or filled with things : CLEAR • We'll need a lot of *free* floor space for the dancing lesson. • The hallway should be kept *free* of clutter.

10 : giving, doing, or saying something very often • He seems to be very *free* about giving people his advice. = He seems to be very *free with* his advice. = [=he seems to give his advice very often, even when it is not wanted] • She's very *free with* her money. = She's a *free* spender. [=she spends her money freely; she spends a lot of money without worrying about trying to save it] • (*chiefly Brit*) He had a habit of *making free with* other people's money. [=of using other people's money freely]

11 of a translation : not closely following or matching the original language : not exact • This is a very *free* [=loose] translation of the original poem.

(*as*) **free as a bird** : completely free • After he left school he felt *as free as a bird*.

feel free — used to tell someone that there is no reason to hesitate about doing something • *Feel free* to call me if you have any questions.

for free : without charge : at no cost • If you buy two boxes of cereal, you'll get another box *for free*. [=without paying any more money]

free and easy **1** : very informal and relaxed • a teacher with a *free and easy* manner • a *free and easy* atmosphere **2** : not strict or careful enough • They have been too *free and easy* in accepting political contributions.

— **free-ly** *adv* • He *freely* admitted that he had lied. • We passed *freely* through the gate. • Wine flowed *freely*. • She spends money *freely*.

²free *adv*

1 : in a free way • The gate opened, and the animals ran *free*. **2** : without charge : at no cost • Children will be admitted *free*. [=for free] • Buy one, get one *free*.

break free see ¹BREAK

free and clear : without owing any money • I've paid off my mortgage and now I own the property *free and clear*. [=I no longer owe any money for the property]

free of charge : without charge : at no cost • He offered his services *free of charge*. [=without receiving money]

home free see ²HOME

³free *verb* **freed; freed; free-ing** [+ *obj*] : to cause (someone or something) to be free: such as

a : to release (a person or animal) from a prison, cage, etc. • The government has agreed to *free* all political prisoners (from jail). • The gunman *freed* two of the hostages. • The animals were *freed* from their cages. **b** : to release (someone or something) from being physically held or blocked • His legs became tangled in the net, and he was unable to *free* himself. • He was unable to *free* his legs from the net. • The animal struggled to *free* itself from the trap. **c** : to cause or allow (someone or something) to stop having or being affected by something unpleasant, painful, or unwanted — + *from* or *of* • He has struggled to *free* himself *from* debt. • The new road will help to *free* the city *of* traffic jams. • patients trying to *free* themselves *from* dependence on drugs **d** : to make (something) available for use • I'll see if I can *free* (up) some time on my schedule next week so that we can meet. • We need to delete more files to *free* (up) space on the computer's hard drive. **e** : to give more free time to (someone) • Hiring an assistant has *freed* him to spend more time with his family. **f** : to remove limits from (someone or something) • She encourages her students to *free* their imaginations.

free on bail, freed on bail see ¹BAIL

free agent *noun*, *pl* ~ **agents** [*count*]

1 : a person who is able to act freely without being controlled by someone else

2 : a professional athlete (such as a baseball player) who is free to sign a contract to play for any team

— **free agency** *noun* [*noncount*] • an athlete who has become eligible for *free agency*

free-base /'fri:beɪs/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a form of cocaine that can be smoked

— **freebase** *verb* **-bas-es; -based; -bas-ing** [*no obj*] a drug addict who *freebases* [+ *obj*] a drug addict who *freebases* cocaine

free-bie or **free-bee** /'fri:bi/ *noun*, *pl* **-bies** or **-bees** [*count*] *informal* : something that is given for free • On the store's opening day, the manager gave out hats, small toys, and other *freebies*.

free-born /'fri:'boʊn/ *adj* : not born in slavery • a *freeborn* citizen

free-dom /'fri:dəm/ *noun*, *pl* **-doms**

1 [*noncount*] : the state of being free: such as **a** : the power to do what you want to do : the ability to move or act freely • religious *freedom* • academic *freedom* • He thinks children these days have too much *freedom*. • She has the *freedom* to do as she likes. • *freedom of choice* • *freedom of speech/expression* [=the right to express your opinions freely] • *freedom of the press* [=the right to publish books, newspapers, etc., without being controlled by the government] **b** : the state of not being a slave, prisoner, etc. • a political prisoner struggling to win his *freedom* **c** : the state of not having or being affected by something unpleasant, painful, or unwanted — + *from* • *freedom from* care • *freedom from* pain/fear • *freedom from* responsibility **d** : the right to use something or go somewhere without being controlled • *freedom of the seas*

2 [*count*] : a political right • an important *freedom* • basic human *freedoms*

freedom fighter *noun*, *pl* ~ **-ers** [*count*] : a person who is part of an organized group fighting against a cruel and unfair government or system

free enterprise *noun* [*noncount*] : a system in which private businesses are able to compete with each other with little control by the government — called also *private enterprise*

free fall *noun*, *pl* ~ **falls**

1 [*noncount*] : the state or condition of falling through the air toward the ground • a parachutist in *free fall* [=a parachutist who is falling through the air before the parachute opens]

2 a [*noncount*] : the condition of quickly becoming lower, less, or fewer • Sales were in *free fall*. • Stock prices have gone into *free fall*. [=they are going down very quickly] **b** [*count*] : a fast or continuing drop • There has been a *free fall* in stock prices. [=stock prices have gone down very quickly]

free-float-ing /'fri:'flaʊtɪŋ/ *adj* : not connected or attached to anything • *free-floating* ideas : not directed at or caused by anything specific • *free-floating* anxiety

free-for-all /'fri:fəˈrɑ:l/ *noun*, *pl* **-alls** [*count*] : an uncontrolled fight or competition that involves many people • A fight between two players quickly turned into a *free-for-all* involving all the players on both teams. — often used figuratively to describe a wild and noisy disagreement • The press conference turned into a *free-for-all*.

free-form /'fri:'foʊm/ *adj*, *always used before a noun* : created or done in any way you choose : not required to have particular patterns or forms • *free-form* dancing

free-hand /'fri:'hænd/ *adj*, *always used before a noun* : done without special tools or instruments • She took a course in *freehand* drawing. • a *freehand* sketch

— **freehand** *adv* • She drew the picture *freehand*.

free hand *noun*

a *free hand* : the freedom to do things and make decisions without being controlled by another • Her father gave her a *free hand* in running the family business. [=her father let her run the family business as she wanted to]

free kick *noun*, *pl* ~ **kicks** [*count*] *soccer* : a kick that is made without being stopped or slowed by an opponent and that is allowed because of a foul by an opponent

free-lance /'fri:'ləns/ *adj* : earning money by being hired to work on different jobs for short periods of time rather than by having a permanent job with one employer • a *freelance* writer • a *freelance* worker, *also* : done or produced by a

freelance worker • a *freelance* job • looking for *freelance* work • I wrote a *freelance* article for a nature magazine.

– **freelance** *adv* • working *freelance* – **freelance** *verb* – **lanc-es**; – **lanced**; – **lanc-ing** [*no obj*] • a writer who *freelances*

free-load /'fri:ləʊd/ *verb* – **loads**; – **load-ed**; – **load-ing** [*no obj*] *informal* + *disapproving* : to get or ask for things (such as food, money, or a place to live) from people without paying for them • He often *freeloads* [=mooches] off his relatives.

– **free-load-er** *noun*, *pl* – **ers** [*count*] • a lazy *freeloader*

free love *noun* [*noncount*] : the practice of having sex with many people instead of with just one partner

free-man /'fri:mən/ *noun*, *pl* – **men** /-mən/ [*count*] : a free man : a man who is not a slave

free market *noun*, *pl* ~ **-kets** [*count*] : an economic market or system in which prices are based on competition among private businesses and not controlled by a government

– **free-market** *adj*, always used before a noun • a *free-market* economy • *free-market* principles

Free-ma-son /'fri:'meɪsn/ *noun*, *pl* – **sons** [*count*] : a member of a large organization of men who have secret rituals and who give help to other members — called also *Mason*

– **Free-ma-son-ry** /'fri:'meɪsnri/ *noun* [*noncount*] • learning about the origins of *Freemasonry*

free-range /'fri:reɪndʒ/ *adj* : allowed to move around freely : not kept in cages • *free-range* chickens; also : coming from free-range animals • *free-range* eggs

free ride *noun*, *pl* ~ **rides** [*count*] : special treatment that involves giving away something that is valuable or expensive • The state university offered him a *free ride* for all four years of college—his football scholarship would cover tuition, room and board, and other expenses. • companies getting a *free ride* at the taxpayer's expense

free spirit *noun*, *pl* ~ **-its** [*count*] usually *approving* : a person who thinks and acts in a free way without worrying about normal social rules • Their daughter is a real *free spirit*.

free-stand-ing /'fri:'stændɪŋ/ *adj* : standing alone without being attached to or supported by something else • a *free-standing* wall

free-style /'fri:'stajəl/ *noun* [*singular*]

1 : a competition (such as a swimming race) in which the competitors are allowed to use different styles or methods • the one-mile *freestyle* — often used before another noun • a *freestyle* race • *freestyle* skating

2 : ²CRAWL 2

free-think-er /'fri:'θɪŋkə/ *noun*, *pl* – **ers** [*count*] : a person who forms his or her own opinions about important subjects (such as religion and politics) instead of accepting what other people say

– **free-think-ing** /'fri:'θɪŋkɪŋ/ *adj*

free throw *noun*, *pl* ~ **throws** [*count*] : a basketball shot worth one point that must be made from behind a special line and that is given because of a foul by an opponent • make/miss a *free throw* — called also *foul shot*

free trade *noun* [*noncount*] : a system of trade between nations in which there are no special taxes placed on imports

free verse *noun* [*noncount*] : poetry that does not rhyme and does not have a regular rhythm

free-ware /'fri:weə/ *noun* [*noncount*] : computer software that can be used at no cost — compare *SHAREWARE*

free-way /'fri:wei/ *noun*, *pl* – **ways** [*count*] *US* : a wide highway that is built for fast travel

free-wheel-ing /'fri:'wi:lɪŋ/ *adj* : free and loose in style or manner : not held back by rules, duties, or worries • a *freewheeling* young adventurer • She led a *freewheeling* life in the city. : not controlled or limited • a *freewheeling* discussion/investigation • *freewheeling* competition

free will *noun* [*noncount*]

1 : the ability to choose how to act • I do this *of my own free will* [=I do this because I want to do it; no one is forcing me to do this]

2 : the ability to make choices that are not controlled by fate or God • He argues that all humans have *free will*.

¹**freeze** /'fri:z/ *verb* **freez-es**; **froze** /'frouz/; **fro-zen** /'frouzn/; **freez-ing**

1 : to become a hard substance (such as ice) because of cold [*no obj*] Water *freezes* (in)to ice. • The pond *froze* over. [=the surface of the pond froze] • The pond *froze* solid. [=the water in the pond froze completely] [+ *obj*] The low temperature *froze* the river (over).

2 [*no obj*] : to be very cold • The children are going to *freeze*

out there without their coats. • She nearly *froze to death*. [=nearly died from the cold]

3 : to become blocked or unable to move because of ice [*no obj*] The water pipes *froze*. • My car doors *froze*. [+ *obj*] The cold weather *froze* the water pipes.

4 : to preserve (food) by storing it in a very cold place [+ *obj*] We *froze* the leftovers. [=we put the leftovers in the freezer] [*no obj*] Some vegetables don't *freeze* well.

5 a [*no obj*] : to stop moving : to become completely still • The guard ordered him to *freeze*. • The deer *froze* in the road as the car approached it. b [*no obj*] : to become unable to do or say anything • She *froze* (up) when the teacher asked her a difficult question. c [*no obj*] : to stop working • The engine suddenly *froze*. • My computer has *frozen* (up) again.

d [+ *obj*] : to cause (a person or animal) to stop moving • A fake by the quarterback *froze* the defender. • The lights of the approaching car *froze* the deer.

6 [+ *obj*] a : to stop (something, such as prices or wages) from changing or increasing • The government *froze* prices on certain materials. • The struggling company had to *freeze* wages and eliminate several jobs. b : to stop (money or property) from being used, spent, etc. • The government has *frozen* foreign assets.

freeze out [*phrasal verb*] **freeze out** (someone) or **freeze** (someone) *out* : to not allow (someone) to be included in an activity or group • a politician who is being *frozen out* by former supporters who accuse him of betraying the party

frozen stiff see ²STIFF

when hell freezes over see *HELL*

– **freezing** *adj* or *adv* • Turn up the heat—I'm *freezing* (to death)! [=I'm very cold] • It's *freezing* in here! • The weather has been *freezing* [=very cold] lately. • *freezing* weather • It's *freezing cold* [=very cold] in here!

²**freeze** *noun*, *pl* **freezes** [*count*]

1 : a period in which the weather is very cold : a time when temperatures are below 32°F or 0°C • The *freeze* destroyed many oranges.

2 : a stop in the increase, decrease, or change of prices or wages • a six-month wage *freeze* = a six-month *freeze* on wages • a price *freeze*

freeze-dry /'fri:z'draɪ/ *verb* – **dries**; – **dried**; – **dry-ing** [+ *obj*] : to preserve (something, such as food) by a process that both dries and freezes it • a process used to *freeze-dry* food

– **freeze-dried** *adj* • *freeze-dried* foods • *freeze-dried* coffee

freeze-frame /'fri:z'freɪm/ *noun*, *pl* – **frames** : a still, unchanging picture produced in a movie or video [*count*] The movie ended with a *freeze-frame* of the child waving at his mother. [*noncount*] The VCR allows you to fast-forward, reverse, or put the picture in *freeze-frame*.

– **freeze-frame** *verb* – **frames**; – **framed**; – **fram-ing** [+ *obj*] • *freeze-frame* an image

freez-er /'fri:zə/ *noun*, *pl* – **ers** [*count*] : a device or room for freezing food or keeping it frozen • a *freezer* compartment • Don't forget to put the ice cream back in the *freezer*. — see picture at *KITCHEN*

freezing point *noun*, *pl* ~ **points** [*count*] : the temperature at which a liquid freezes • The *freezing point* of water is 0 degrees Celsius and 32 degrees Fahrenheit.

¹**freight** /'freɪt/ *noun*, *pl* **freights**

1 [*noncount*] a : goods that are carried by ships, trains, trucks, or airplanes • trains that carry both passengers and *freight* • The *freight* arrived by steamboat. b : the system by which goods are carried from one place to another • The order was shipped by *freight*.

2 [*noncount*] : the amount of money paid for carrying goods • paid the full *freight* — sometimes used figuratively in U.S. English • parents struggling to *pay the freight* [=to pay] for their children's college education • He warns that taxpayers will end up *paying the freight* for the new stadium.

3 [*count*] *US* : *FREIGHT TRAIN* • an eastbound *freight*

²**freight** *verb* **freights**; **freight-ed**; **freight-ing** [+ *obj*]

1 : to send (goods) from one place to another • cargo *freight-ed* by airplane

2 : to cause (something) to have or carry many things : to load or burden (something) — usually used as (be) *freighted* • an essay *freighted* with complex arguments [=an essay that has too many complex arguments]

freight car *noun*, *pl* ~ **cars** [*count*] *US* : a railroad car that is used for carrying goods — called also (*Brit*) *wagon*

freight-er /'freɪtə/ *noun*, *pl* – **ers** [*count*] : a large ship that is used to carry goods — see picture at *SHIP*

freight train *noun*, *pl* ~ **trains** [*count*] : a train that carries

goods : a train that carries freight

¹**French** /'frentʃ/ *adj* : of or relating to France, its people, or their language • *French cuisine* • *French literature*

²**French** *noun*

1 [*noncount*] : the language of the French people • learned to speak *French*

2 *the French* : the people of France : French people • the customs of *the French*

pardon my French see ¹PARDON

French bean *noun, pl ~ beans* [*count*] *Brit* : GREEN BEAN

French bread *noun* [*noncount*] : a type of crusty bread that is baked in long, thin loaves

French Canadian *noun, pl ~ -ians* [*count*] : a Canadian whose family comes originally from France • *the French Canadians of Quebec and other provinces*

— **French-Canadian** *adj*

French door *noun, pl ~ doors* [*count*] *chiefly US* : FRENCH WINDOW

French dressing *noun* [*noncount*]

1 *US* : a creamy salad dressing that is flavored with tomatoes

2 *chiefly Brit* : a salad dressing made of vinegar and oil with spices

french-fried *adj, chiefly US* : fried in deep fat • *french-fried onions* • *french-fried potatoes*

french fry or **French fry** *noun, pl ~ fries* [*count*] *chiefly US* : a long, thin piece of potato that is fried in deep fat — called also (*Brit*) *chip*, (*US*) *fry*

French horn *noun, pl ~ horns* [*count*] : a brass musical instrument that has a long tube which forms a circle and has a wide opening at one end — see picture at BRASS INSTRUMENT

French kiss *noun, pl ~ kisses* [*count*] : a kiss made with the mouths open and the tongues touching

French-man /'frentʃmən/ *noun, pl -men* /-mən/ [*count*] : a French man

French polish *noun* [*noncount*] *Brit* : a kind of liquid (called a varnish) that is used on wood to make it shiny

French toast *noun* [*noncount*] : bread that is covered in a mixture of eggs and milk and fried at low heat • a slice of *French toast*

French window *noun, pl ~ -dows* [*count*] : a pair of windows that have many small panes and that reach to the floor and open in the middle like doors

French-wom-an /'frentʃwʊmən/ *noun, pl -wom-en* /-wɪmən/ [*count*] : a French woman

fre-net-ic /fri'netik/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] : filled with excitement, activity, or confusion : wild or frantic • The celebration was noisy and *frenetic*. • *frenetic* activity

— **fre-net-i-cal-ly** /fri'netikli/ *adv* • a *frenetically* fast pace • dancing *frenetically*

fren-zied /'frenzid/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] : very excited or upset • *frenzied* dancing • The screams of the fans grew more *frenzied* as the concert progressed.

— **fren-zied-ly** *adv*

fren-zy /'frenzi/ *noun, pl -zies* [*count*] : great and often wild or uncontrolled activity • the buying *frenzy* just before Christmas • The partygoers worked themselves (up) into a *frenzy*. • a *frenzy* of shopping — see also FEEDING FRENZY

fre-quen-cy /'fri:kwənsi/ *noun, pl -cies*

1 [*noncount*] : the fact or condition of happening often : common occurrence • the alarming *frequency* of serious automobile accidents caused by young drivers • The *frequency* of student errors was frustrating to the young teacher.

2 [*noncount*] : the number of times that something happens during a particular period • The *frequency* of our visits decreased [=our visits occurred less often] during the school year. • Our visits decreased in *frequency*. • Errors were occurring with increasing *frequency*. • high/low *frequency*

3 *technical* : the number times that something (such as a sound wave or radio wave) is repeated in a period of time (such as a second) [*noncount*] a sound wave of high/low *frequency* [*count*] waves having very different *frequencies* from one another • high/low *frequencies* • a current having a *frequency* of 60 hertz • a radio *frequency* of 30 megahertz

¹**fre-quent** /'fri:kwənt/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*]

1 : happening often • We made *frequent* trips to town. • a *frequent* [=common, usual] occurrence • This bus makes *frequent* stops. — opposite INFREQUENT

2 : acting or returning regularly or often • She was a *frequent* visitor to the museum. • He is one of our most *frequent* customers. — opposite INFREQUENT

— **fre-quent-ly** *adv* • I see her *frequently*. • This list is updated *frequently*.

²**fre-quent** /fri'kwənt/ *verb* -quents; -quent-ed; -quent-ing [+ *obj*] : to visit or go to (a place) often • He began *frequenting* cheap bars. • a neighborhood *frequented* by tourists • a restaurant *frequented* by local politicians

— **fre-quent-er** *noun, pl -ers* [*count*] • a *frequent*er of cheap bars

fres-co /'freskou/ *noun, pl -coes*

1 [*noncount*] : the art of painting on wet plaster • scenes done in *fresco*

2 [*count*] : a painting that is done on wet plaster • a ceiling *fresco*

¹**fresh** /'frefʃ/ *adj* fresh-er; -est

1 **a** : newly produced, made, gathered, etc. : not preserved by being frozen, canned, etc. • *fresh* vegetables = vegetables *fresh* from the farm = farm-*fresh* vegetables • You can use either *fresh* or dried basil for this recipe. • *fresh* fish [=fish that were caught and killed very recently] **b** : not old, spoiled, etc. • *fresh* bread = bread *fresh* from the oven = oven-*fresh* bread • The meat was kept *fresh* in the refrigerator. • a bouquet of *fresh* flowers

2 **a** : clean and pure • *fresh* air • *fresh* flavors • *fresh* colors **b** : not having an unpleasant smell, taste, etc. • *fresh* breath **c** : not worn or dirty • He changed into a *fresh* shirt. • She brought a *fresh* change of clothes.

3 : full of life and energy • She rose *fresh* from a good night's sleep. • She always seems to be (as) *fresh as a daisy*. [=very fresh; not at all tired]

4 : not containing salt • *fresh* water

5 **a** : newly made, experienced, or received • a *fresh* wound **b** : replacing something old or used • Can I get you a *fresh* drink? • I used a *fresh* piece of paper. • Let's *make a fresh start*. [=let's start again] **c** : remaining clear : not faded • I'd like to take the test soon, while the information is still *fresh* in my mind. [=while I still remember the information clearly] • memories that remained *fresh* **d** : new and original • She offered *fresh* insight into the problem. • a young writer with *fresh* ideas • Let's try a *fresh* approach to this problem.

6 **a** : behaving or talking in a rude or impolite way • Don't be/get *fresh* with the teacher. • a very *fresh* kid **b** *old-fashioned* : behaving or talking in a way that shows sexual attraction to someone • He tried to get *fresh* with me.

7 *of wind* : fairly strong • a *fresh* breeze

a *breath of fresh air* see BREATH

fresh from or fresh out of : having recently left or come from (a place, such as a school) • new employees *fresh out of* college • a young doctor *fresh from* medical school

fresh off the boat see ¹BOAT

— **fresh-ly** *adv* • a *freshly* baked pie • *freshly* polished boots — **fresh-ness** *noun* [*count, noncount*] • The fruit had been shipped a great distance, and lacked flavor and *freshness*. • Several critics praised the *freshness* of her style.

²**fresh** *adv* : just recently : NEWLY, FRESHLY • This bread was baked *fresh*. — usually used in combination • *fresh*-baked bread • *fresh*-laid eggs

fresh out (of something) *US, informal* — used to say that you do not have any more of something • “Are there any bagels left?” “I'm sorry, we're *fresh out (of them)*.” • I'm *fresh out of* ideas. [=I don't have any more ideas] • We're *fresh out of* time.

fresh-en /'frefʃən/ *verb* -ens; -ened; -en-ing

1 [+ *obj*] : to make (something) fresh : to cause (something) to be more pleasant • We tried to *freshen* (up) the room [=to give the room a brighter appearance] with some color. • a mint that *freshens* the breath

2 [+ *obj*] *chiefly US, informal* : to pour more of a usually alcoholic drink into someone's glass • Can I *freshen* your drink?

3 [*no obj*] *of wind* : to become stronger • The wind/breeze suddenly *freshened*.

freshen up [*phrasal verb*] : to wash yourself in order to feel clean and fresh • After my walk, I *freshened up* with a shower.

— **fresh-en-er** /'frefʃənə/ *noun, pl -ers* [*count*] • an air/room *freshener* [=something used to make the air in a room smell fresher or more pleasant] • a breath *freshener*

fresh-er /'frefʃə/ *noun, pl -ers* [*count*] *Brit, informal* : a university freshman

fresh-faced /'frefʃ'feɪst/ *adj* : having a young, healthy, and innocent appearance • *fresh-faced* young students

fresh-man /'frefʃmən/ *noun, pl -men* /-mən/ [*count*]

1 : a student in the first year of high school or college • My daughter's a *freshman* at UCLA. — often used before another noun • She had a successful *freshman* year. — compare SOPHOMORE, JUNIOR, SENIOR

2 chiefly US : someone who is starting a job or activity : BEGINNER • He was the best *freshman* in professional basketball this year. — often used before another noun • a *freshman* congressman

fresh-water /'frɛʃ'wa:tə/ *adj.*, always used before a noun : of, relating to, or living in water that is not salty • *freshwater* fish • a *freshwater* stream — compare SALTWATER

¹fret /'fret/ *verb* frets; fret·ted; fret·ting [no obj] : to worry or be concerned • I was sure we wouldn't get there in time, but she told me not to fret. • Don't fret. We won't miss the plane. • It turned out that it was nothing to fret about/over.

²fret *noun* [singular] *informal* : a state of being worried or upset • Don't get in (such) a fret! We won't miss the plane. — compare ³FRET

³fret *noun*, *pl* frets [count] : any one of a series of ridges on the neck of some stringed musical instruments (such as a guitar) — compare ²FRET

— fret·less *adj.* • a fretless bass — fretted *adj.* • fretted instruments

fret-ful /'fretfəl/ *adj.* [more ~; most ~]

1 : upset and worried • a fretful child

2 : not relaxing or restful • He fell into a fretful sleep.

— fret·ful·ly *adv.* • He was sleeping fretfully. — fret·ful·ness *noun* [noncount] • the child's fretfulness

fret-work /'fret,wɜ:k/ *noun* [noncount] : patterns or decoration on a surface made by cutting into or through the surface

Freud-i-an /'froidijən/ *adj.*

1 : of, relating to, or following the theories of Sigmund Freud • Freudian psychology • a Freudian psychologist

2 : relating to or coming from very deeply hidden desires or feelings • a Freudian compulsion • a Freudian joke

— Freudian *noun*, *pl* -ians [count] • The psychologist considers himself a Freudian.

Freudian slip *noun*, *pl* ~ slips [count] : a mistake in speech that shows what the speaker is truly thinking • He meant to say "I'm glad you're here," but what came out was a Freudian slip: "I'm mad you're here."

Fri. *abbr* Friday

fri-a-ble /'frajəbəl/ *adj.* [more ~; most ~] *technical* : easily broken into smaller pieces • friable soil

— fri-a-bil-i-ty /,frajə'bɪləti/ *noun* [noncount]

fri-ar /'frajə/ *noun*, *pl* -ars [count] : a member of a men's Roman Catholic group who is poor and studies or teaches about Christianity

fric-as-see /'frikə,si:, Brit 'frikə,sei/ *noun*, *pl* -sees [count, noncount] : a dish of small pieces of meat cooked in liquid and served in a thick white sauce • chicken fricassee

fric-a-tive /'frikətɪv/ *noun*, *pl* -tives [count] *linguistics* : a sound made by forcing air out of your mouth through a narrow opening that is made using the lips, teeth, or tongue • The sounds /f v θ ð s z ʃ ʒ h/ are English fricatives.

— fricative *adj.* • a fricative consonant

fric-tion /'frikʃən/ *noun* [noncount]

1 a : the act of rubbing one thing against another • Friction causes heat. • the friction of sandpaper on wood **b** : the force that causes a moving object to slow down when it is touching another object • Oil in a car engine reduces/lessens friction.

2 : disagreement or tension between people or groups of people • It was difficult to reach an agreement because of the friction between the two sides.

— fric-tion-al /'frikʃənəl/ *adj.*, *technical* • frictional heating

— fric-tion-less /'frikʃənləs/ *adj.* • a frictionless surface

Fri-day /'fraɪ,dei/ *noun*, *pl* -days : the day of the week between Thursday and Saturday [count] She was here last Friday. • My birthday falls on a Friday this year. • (Brit) I'll arrive on the Monday and leave on the Friday. • The class meets on Fridays. [=every Friday] [noncount] I will arrive on Friday. = (chiefly US) I will arrive Friday. • I'll arrive on Monday and leave on Friday. — *abbr.* Fri.; see also GOOD FRIDAY

— Fridays *adv.* • He works late Fridays. [=he works late every Friday]

fridge /'frɪdʒ/ *noun*, *pl* fridg-es [count] : REFRIGERATOR • Please put the milk in the fridge. ♦ In U.S. English, fridge is informal, but in British English it is the usual word for a refrigerator.

fridge-freezer *noun*, *pl* -ers [count] *Brit* : a kitchen appliance that includes both a refrigerator and a freezer ♦ In U.S. English, this appliance is usually called a refrigerator.

fried /'fraɪd/ *adj.*

1 : cooked in hot oil • fried fish

2 US, *informal* : not able to think clearly because you are very tired • Sorry, I'm just fried today.

fried rice *noun* [noncount] chiefly US : a dish of rice that is cooked and then fried with soy sauce and vegetables, meat, or beaten eggs

friend /'frend/ *noun*, *pl* friends [count]

1 : a person who you like and enjoy being with • I'd like you to meet my friend. • She is such a good/close/dear friend (of mine). • We're fast friends. = We're the best of friends. • He's no friend of mine. • He has always been a good friend to me. [=he has always helped or supported me as a good friend should] • She's my best friend. [=my closest friend] • We are childhood friends. [=we have been friends since we were children] • old friends [=people who have been friends for a long time] • She is an old family friend. = She is an old friend of the family. [=she has known and spent time with the family over many years] • We are just friends. [=we are not in a romantic relationship] • He wants to be friends with my younger sister. [=he wants to be my sister's friend] • She is best friends with my younger sister. [=she is my youngest sister's closest friend] ♦ Friend is sometimes used in a humorous or ironic way to refer to someone who is annoying or disliked. • Has our friend with the rude attitude been bothering you lately? • Don't look now. Here comes your friend.

2 : a person who helps or supports someone or something (such as a cause or charity) • She is a friend of the environment. [=she supports environmental causes] • The strikers knew they had a friend in the senator. [=knew that the senator supported them] • Are you friend or foe? [=do you support us or oppose us?]

3 Friend : QUAKER

a friend in need is a friend indeed — used to say that a friend who will help you when you need help is a true friend

friends in high places ♦ To have friends in high places is to know people with social or political influence or power. • She got the job because she has friends in high places.

make friends : to become someone's friend • Sometimes it is hard for children to make new friends. — often + with • She's very good at making friends with people from all walks of life.

man's best friend see ¹MAN

friend-less /'frendləs/ *adj.*, *literary* : not having any friends : not having anyone who can help you • He was friendless and alone.

¹friend-ly /'frendli/ *adj.* friend-li-er; -est [also more ~; most ~]

1 a : acting like a friend : kind and helpful • friendly neighbors • The local people are very friendly to/toward visitors. • It was friendly of him to offer to help us. **b** : having or showing the feelings that friends have for each other • His friendly smile was reassuring. • They maintained a friendly correspondence. • They are friendly with their new neighbors. [=they are friends with their new neighbors]

2 : showing support or approval — usually + to or toward • The boss is friendly to new ideas. • He accuses his political opponents of being overly friendly toward special interests.

3 : giving help : making the process of doing something easier • A friendly breeze helped us sail the boat into the harbor.

4 : cheerful or pleasant • The friendly glow of the fire was welcome after our hike through the snowy mountains.

5 : not an enemy : not hostile • That nation was not friendly (to us). • friendly competitors • They have enjoyed a friendly rivalry for many years.; specifically : involving or coming from your own military forces • friendly planes • Several soldiers were killed by friendly fire. [=they were accidentally killed by weapons fired from their own side]

6 a : easy to use or understand • friendly computer software • a customer-friendly telephone system — see also USER-FRIENDLY **b** : not harmful • environmentally friendly products = eco-friendly products [=products that do not harm the environment]

7 : done for enjoyment or exercise instead of for money or prizes • a friendly game of tennis/poker • a friendly preseason match

— friend-li-ness *noun* [noncount] • She appreciated the

friendliness of her neighbors. • There was *friendliness* and warmth in his eyes.

²**friendly** *noun, pl -lies* [count] *Brit* : a game between sports teams that is done for fun and not as part of a regular playing season • a preseason *friendly*

friendly society *noun, pl ~ -ties* [count] *Brit* : an association in which members pay money to receive benefits when they are old or sick

friend-ship /'frendʃɪp/ *noun, pl -ships*

1 : the state of being friends : the relationship between friends [count] They have a long-standing *friendship*. [=they have been friends for a long time] • They struck up a *friendship*. [=they became friends] • She formed many lasting *friendships* [=she made and kept many friends] during her time in college. • a *friendship* between two countries [non-count] They have enjoyed many years of *friendship*.

2 [noncount] : a friendly feeling or attitude : kindness or help given to someone • He was encouraged by the *friendship* his coworkers showed him.

frier *variant spelling of FRYER*

frieze /'fri:z/ *noun, pl friez-es* [count] : a decorative band or border usually on the top of a building or wall

frig-ate /'frɪgət/ *noun, pl -ates* [count] : a small and fast military ship

frig-ging /'frɪŋɪŋ/ *adv, informal + impolite* — used to make an angry statement more forceful • That was so *frigging* stupid!

— **frigging** *adj* • I failed the *frigging* test.

fright /'fraɪt/ *noun, pl frights*

1 **a** [noncount] : fear caused by sudden danger : sudden fear • Her eyes were wide with *fright*. • He was paralyzed with/by *fright*. [=he was so afraid that he couldn't move] • I almost died of *fright*. [=I was extremely afraid or terrified] • I approached very slowly, but the hawk *took fright* [=became afraid] and flew away. **b** [count] : a feeling of sudden fear — usually singular • When you jumped out from behind the door it gave me such a *fright*! [=it made me feel very afraid] *synonyms* see ¹FEAR

2 [count] *old-fashioned* : something that looks strange, shocking, ugly, etc. — usually singular • You can't go out like that. Your hair *looks a fright*! [=your hair looks very messy or unattractive]

— see also STAGE FRIGHT

fright-en /'fraɪtn/ *verb -ens; -ened; -en-ing*

1 [+ *obj*] : to cause (someone) to become afraid • The story really *frightened* me. • The child was badly *frightened* by the mask. • The story nearly *frightened me to death*. = The story nearly *frightened the life out of me*. [=the story frightened me very badly]

2 [no *obj*] : to become afraid • She doesn't *frighten* easily.

frighten away/off [phrasal verb] *frighten (someone or something) away/off* : to cause (someone or something) to go away or stay away because of fear • The dog *frightened* the prowler *away*. • Tourists have been *frightened off* by the violence in the city.

frighten into [phrasal verb] *frighten (someone) into (doing something)* : to cause (someone) to do (something) because of fear • The insurance agent tried to *frighten* her *into* buying the most expensive flood insurance. • They *frightened* the boy *into* confessing his crime.

frighten out of [phrasal verb] *frighten (someone) out of (doing something)* : to keep (someone) from (doing something) because of fear • Bad economic news has *frightened* people *out of* putting their money in the stock market.

— **frightened** *adj* [more ~; most ~] • Are you *frightened* [=afraid] of dogs? • a badly/very *frightened* child — **frightening** *adj* [more ~; most ~] • There were *frightening* noises outside my tent. • a *frightening* mask — **fright-en-ing-ly** *adv* • The car came *frighteningly* close to the guardrail. • It is *frighteningly* [=extremely] easy to mislead voters.

fright-ful /'fraɪtfəl/ *adj* [more ~; most ~] *somewhat old-fashioned*

1 : causing fear • As he fell, he let out a *frightful* scream. • a *frightful* illness that causes extreme pain

2 : very bad or shocking • The children made a *frightful* mess of the kitchen. • Many critics have expressed shock at the song's *frightful* lyrics.

3 : very strong • a *frightful* thirst

fright-ful-ly /'fraɪtfəli/ *adv, somewhat old-fashioned*

1 : in a shocking way • The cost of living here is *frightfully* expensive.

2 : VERY • She's *frightfully* good at her work. • That's a *frightfully* clever solution.

frig-id /'frɪdʒəd/ *adj* [more ~; most ~]

1 : very cold • The *frigid* gusts of wind stung their faces. • *frigid* air/water

2 : not friendly or loving : lacking emotional warmth • She was born into an emotionally *frigid* family. • He looked at them with a *frigid* [=cold] stare.

3 *of a woman* : not wanting to have sex : not enjoying sex

— **fri-gid-i-ty** /'frɪdʒɪdəti/ *noun* [noncount] • the *frigidity* of the climate • sexual problems such as impotence and *frigidity* — **frig-id-ly** *adv* • a *frigidly* cold gust of wind

frill /'frɪl/ *noun, pl frills* [count]

1 : a strip of cloth that is gathered into folds on one edge and attached to something (such as clothing or curtains) as a decoration • The dress had *frills* around the hem and sleeves.

2 : something that is added but is not necessary • He likes plain food without any *frills*. — see also NO-FRILLS

frilly /'frɪli/ *adj* **frill-i-er; -est** [also more ~; most ~]

1 : having frills • a *frilly* dress • *frilly* curtains

2 : looking like a frill : having wavy edges • a plant with *frilly* leaves

¹**fringe** /'frɪndʒ/ *noun, pl fringes*

1 [count] : a border made of hanging threads used to decorate the edge of something (such as clothing, rugs, and curtains) • a lampshade with a *fringe*

2 [count] : a narrow area along the edge of something • a *fringe* of moss around the tree — often plural • Scientists were measuring temperatures at the outer *fringes* of the atmosphere.

3 [singular] : an area of activity that is related to but not part of whatever is central or most widely accepted • a party on the political *fringe* : a group of people with extreme views or unpopular opinions • the conservative/liberal *fringe* — often used before another noun • a *fringe* topic • published in a *fringe* journal • *fringe* theater • the *fringe* element • *fringe* activists — see also LUNATIC FRINGE

4 [count] *Brit* : the front section of hair cut short and worn over the forehead : BANGS — usually singular • She wears her hair in a *fringe*.

on the fringe(s) : on the outer edge of something • They lived *on the fringe* of the forest. — often used figuratively •

He has been working for years *on the fringes* of the entertainment industry.

²**fringe** *verb* **fringes; fringed; fring-ing** [+ *obj*]

1 : to decorate (something) with a fringe • a *fringed* leather vest

2 : to go along or around (something) • A jungle *fringed* the shore.

fringe benefit *noun, pl ~ -fits* [count] : something extra (such as vacation time) that is given by an employer to workers in addition to their regular pay

frip-pery /'frɪpəri/ *noun, pl -peries* *somewhat formal + old-fashioned* : something that is not necessary or not serious [noncount] The design is simple and devoid of needless *frip-pery*. [count] needless *fripperies*

Fris-bee /'frɪzbi/ *trademark* — used for a plastic disc that you throw to someone who tries to catch it as part of a game

frisk /'frɪsk/ *verb* **frisks; frisked; frisk-ing** [+ *obj*] : to pass your hands over (someone) to search for something that may be hidden in clothing • All visitors to the prison are *frisked* (for weapons) before they're allowed to enter.

frisky /'frɪski/ *adj* **frisk-i-er; -est** [more ~; most ~]

1 : very playful or lively • *frisky* kittens • The kids were *frisky* after all that candy.

2 *informal* : sexually playful or excited • feeling *frisky*

— **frisk-i-ly** /'frɪskəli/ *adv* • kittens playing *friskily* on the lawn — **frisk-i-ness** *noun* [noncount] • the *friskiness* of the kittens

fris-son /'fri'soun/ *noun, pl -sons* [count] *somewhat formal* : a sudden strong feeling or emotion • a *frisson* of surprise

¹**frit-ter** /'frɪtə/ *noun, pl -ters* [count] : a small piece of food that has been coated in a flour and egg mixture and fried • apple/corn *fritters*

²**fritter** *verb -ters; -tered; -ter-ing*

fritter away [phrasal verb] *fritter away (something) or fritter (something) away* : to spend or use up (something) in a slow and usually foolish way • He *frittered* the afternoon *away*. • He *frittered away* his fortune on gambling.

fritz /'frɪts/ *noun*

on the fritz *US, informal* : not working properly • We can't listen to music because the stereo is *on the fritz*.

fri·vol·i·ty /fri'vɔ:ləti/ *noun*, *pl* -ties

1 [noncount] : a lack of seriousness : the quality or state of being silly or frivolous • He has no patience for *frivolity*.

2 [count] : something that is unnecessary or silly • He spends money on the latest fashions and other *frivolities*.

friv·o·lous /'frivələs/ *adj* [more ~; most ~]

1 : not important : not deserving serious attention • She thinks window shopping is a *frivolous* activity. • a *frivolous* lawsuit [=a lawsuit about something that is not important]

2 : silly and not serious • a *frivolous* conversation

— **friv·o·lous·ly** *adv* • She was spending money *frivolously*.

— **friv·o·lous·ness** *noun* [noncount]

frizz /'frɪz/ *noun* [noncount] : very tightly curled hair • She used gel on her hair to control the *frizz*.

— **frizz** *verb* **frizz·es**; **frizzed**; **frizz·ing** [no obj] • Humidity makes my hair *frizz*. — **frizzy** /'frɪzi/ *adj* **frizz·i·er**; **-est** • *frizzy* hair

fro /'frou/ *adv* see TO AND FRO**frock** /'frɔ:k/ *noun*, *pl* frocks [count]

1 *old-fashioned* : a woman's or girl's dress • wearing an *old frock* • a *party frock*

2 : a long outer garment worn by some Christian monks and friars

frock coat *noun*, *pl* ~ coats [count] *old-fashioned* : a long coat worn by men especially in the 19th century**frog** /'frɔ:g/ *noun*, *pl* frogs [count]

1 : a small animal that spends much of the time in water and has smooth skin, webbed feet, and long back legs for jumping — compare TOAD

2 *Frog informal + offensive* : a French person ✧ This sense is very offensive and should be avoided.

a *frog in your throat* ✧ If you have a *frog in your throat*, you are unable to speak normally because your throat is dry.



frog



toad

frog·man /'frɔ:g,mæn/ *noun*, *pl* -men /-,mən/ [count] : a person (especially a man in the military or police) who uses special equipment to work underwater for long periods of time**frog·march** /'frɔ:g,mɑ:tʃ/ *verb* -march·es; -marched; -march·ing [+ obj] chiefly *Brit* : to grab and force (someone) to walk forward by pushing from behind • They *frogmarched* him out the door.**¹frol·ic** /'frɔ:lik/ *verb* -ics; -icked; -ick·ing [no obj] : to play and move about happily : ROMP • We watched the seals as they *frolicked* in the harbor. • children *frolicking* in the yard**²frol·ic** *noun*, *pl* -ics : an enjoyable time or activity [count] • We went out for a *frol·ic* in the sun. [noncount] an evening of fun and *frol·ic***frol·ic·some** /'frɔ:liksəm/ *adj* [more ~; most ~] : very lively and playful • *frol·ic·some* children**from** /'frʌm, 'frɑ:m, frəm/ *prep*

1 — used to indicate the starting point of a physical movement or action • He drove here *from* the city. • He set out *from* town this morning. • She took a fall *from* a horse. • The cat came out *from* under the table.

2 — used to indicate the place that something comes out of • He took a dime *from* [=out of] his pocket.

3 — used to indicate the place where someone lives or was born • My family is/comes originally *from* Italy. • Where are you *from*? = Where do you come *from*?

4 — used to indicate the starting or central point of any activity • She looked at me *from* under her glasses. • He spoke *from* the heart. • She watched us *from* across the street.

5 — used to indicate the starting point in measuring something • The meeting is scheduled for a week *from* today. • It's 20 miles *from* here to the nearest town. • They were married three years *from* that day. • *From* childhood (onward) he displayed unusual musical talent.

6 — used to indicate a physical separation between two things • An ocean separates America *from* Europe.

7 — used to indicate something that is removed, released, blocked, or prevented • This lotion provides protection *from*

the sun. • relief *from* anxiety • They asked him to refrain *from* interrupting. • They have no right to exclude her *from* membership. • The dictator fell *from* power. • subtract 3 *from* 9

8 — used to indicate change to a different state or condition • Things have gone *from* bad to worse. • They were transformed *from* raw recruits into trained soldiers.

9 — used to indicate the material that is used to make something • Wine is made *from* grapes. • a doll made *from* cloth

10 — used to indicate the source of something • I'm expecting a call *from* my lawyer. • All his problems have come *from* that one bad decision. • She received a letter *from* home. • reading aloud *from* a book • He inherited a love of music *from* his father. • I bought a book *from* him. [=he sold a book to me] • The painting was done directly *from* nature. • She drew it *from* memory.

11 — used to indicate the basis or cause of something • We conclude *from* this that no changes are necessary. • He's suffering *from* a bad cold. • They were weak *from* hunger. • I could tell she was angry *from* [=by] the look on her face.

12 — used to indicate the lowest point, amount, etc., in a range • These parts cost (anywhere/anything) *from* \$5 to \$10. • It's anywhere *from* \$50,000 on up. [=it is at least \$50,000 and could be more]

13 — used to indicate the group or number of people or things out of which someone or something is chosen or selected • She was chosen *from* a large number of competitors. *as from* see ²AS

frond /'fra:nd/ *noun*, *pl* fronds [count] : a large, long leaf • palm fronds**¹front** /'frʌnt/ *noun*, *pl* fronts

1 [count] : the forward part or surface of something : the part of something that is seen first — usually singular • the *front* of a shirt • the *front* of the house [=the part facing the street] • The jacket zips down the *front*. [=has a zipper that goes from the collar to the waist to open and close it] • There's a picture on the *front* of the box. [=on the part of the box that usually faces out and that you see first] — see also SHOP FRONT, STOREFRONT

2 [count] : a place, position, or area that is most forward or is directly ahead — usually singular • The teacher asked her to come (up) to the *front* of the classroom. • She was sitting in the *front* of the bus.

3 [count] : the part of your body that faces forward and includes your face and chest — usually singular • The baby rolled onto his *front*.

4 [count] : the part of a book, magazine, etc., that includes the first few pages — usually singular • You'll find that information in the *front* of the book.

5 [singular] : a way of behaving that is meant to hide your true feelings, thoughts, etc. • I can't believe that your anger was all just a *front*! [=that you were pretending to be angry] • She *put up a good/brave front*, but I know she was very disappointed. [=she acted as if she was not disappointed]

6 [count] : someone or something that hides or protects an illegal activity • The business is a *front* for organized crime.

7 [count] **a** : an area where military forces are fighting • The general is sending more troops to the *front*. — see also HOME FRONT **b** : an area or field of activity — usually singular • We are making progress on the educational *front*. • Not much has been happening on the political *front*.

8 [count] *weather* : the place where two large areas of air that are of different temperatures come together — see also COLD FRONT, WARM FRONT

front to back of a piece of clothing : with the front where the back should be • He accidentally put the sweater on *front to back*. [=back to front, backwards]

in front **1** : in a forward position : in an area at the front of something • There was room for one passenger *in front*, so the rest of us sat in back. **2** : in the leading position in a race or competition • She's still *in front*, but the other runners are catching up to her. — often used after *out* • She's still *out in front*.

in front of **1** : directly before or ahead of (something or someone) • A tree stood *in front of* the house. • A deer ran (out) *in front of* the car. • They are frightened of what lies *in front of* them. [=what is in the future] **2** : in the presence of (someone) • We shouldn't argue *in front of* the children.

out front **1** : in the area directly before or ahead of something (such as a building) • There was a small statue on the lawn *out front*. **2** : in the audience • There are about 20,000 screaming fans *out front*.

united front : a group of people or organizations that join together to achieve a shared goal • We've decided to

present a *united front* against these proposals.

up front **1** : in or at the most forward position • They told us we could sit *up front*. **2 informal** : before beginning to do something : in advance • He'll do the work, but he insists on being paid *up front*. **3 informal** : in a direct and honest way • They told me *up front* that my chances of being selected weren't good. — see also UP-FRONT

2 front *adj, always used before a noun*

1 : of or relating to the front : located at the front • There's a small statue on the *front* lawn. • He keeps his wallet in his *front* pocket. • the *front* entrance/hall • She likes to sit in the *front* [=first] row. = She likes *front-row* seats. • the *front* door [=the door in the front of a building that is usually the main entrance] • The story appeared on the *front* page [=the first page] of the newspaper. • We checked into the hotel at the *front* desk. [=the desk in a building where visitors are greeted] • There is a dent in the car's *front* end. [=the part of a vehicle that faces forward]

2 golf — used to refer to the first 9 holes of an 18-hole golf course • He was two over par on the *front* nine.

front and center *US* : in the most important position or area • These issues are *front and center* in voters' minds.

3 front *verb fronts; front-ed; front-ing*

1 : to have the face or front toward (something) [+ *obj*] The house *fronts* Main Street. [*no obj*] The house *fronts* on/onto Main Street.

2 [+ *obj*] **a** : to be the leader or lead singer of (a musical group) • He is now *fronting* a different band. **b Brit** : to host or present (a radio or TV program) • He *fronts* a talk show.

3 [+ *obj*] *US, informal* : to give (someone) the money needed to do something (such as to start a business) • The record company will *front* (them) the money to record the album.

front-age /'frʌntɪdʒ/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the part of a building or of the land that a building is on that runs along a river, road, etc. • We have 200 feet of *frontage* on Main Street.

frontage road *noun, pl ~ roads* [*count*] *US* : SERVICE ROAD

front-al /'frʌntl/ *adj, always used before a noun*

1 : relating to the front of something : directed at the front • a *frontal* attack

2 : relating to or showing the front of the human body • (full) *frontal* nudity

— **front-al-ly** *adv* • The enemy attacked them *frontally*.

front bench *noun, pl ~ bench-es* [*count*] *Brit* : the front row of seats on both sides in a British legislature (such as the House of Commons) where the leaders sit; *also* : the leaders themselves • He challenged the views of his party's *front* bench. • the party's *front-bench* spokesman — compare BACKBENCH

— **front-bench-er** /'frʌnt'bentʃə/ *noun, pl -ers* [*count*] • He has been a *front-bench*er for 20 years.

front burner *noun*

on the front burner *chiefly US* : in the position of something that will receive immediate attention and action • The President has put tax cuts *on the front burner*. — compare BACK BURNER

front-end loader *noun, pl ~ -ers* [*count*] *chiefly US* : a vehicle with a large scoop in front that is used for digging and loading loose material — called also *front loader*; see picture at CONSTRUCTION

front-tier /,frʌn'tiə, Brit 'frʌntiə/ *noun, pl -tiers* [*count*]

1 : a border between two countries • the *frontier* between Canada and the U.S.

2 : a distant area where few people live • They were sent on an expedition to explore the western *frontier*. • *frontier* life

3 : the limits of knowledge in a particular field — usually plural • the *frontiers* of science • a discovery at the very *frontiers* of our understanding

front-tiers-man /,frʌn'tiəzmən, Brit 'frʌntiəzmən/ *noun, pl -men* /-mən/ [*count*] : a person (especially a man) who lives on the frontier (sense 2)

front-tis-piece /'frʌntəspi:s/ *noun, pl -piec-es* [*count*] : a picture in the front of a book ♡ The *frontispiece* of a book comes before and usually faces the title page.

front line *noun, pl ~ lines* [*count*]

1 : an area where soldiers are fighting : **1**FRONT 7a • troops *on the front line* = *front-line* troops

2 : the most important and active position in a job or field of activity • These researchers are *on/at the front line* of defense against cancer. • She has been working *on the front lines* to educate the poor.

front loader *noun, pl ~ loaders* [*count*] *US* : FRONT-END LOADER

front matter *noun* [*noncount*] : the pages at the beginning of a book before the main part • The conventions of the book are explained in the *front matter*. — compare BACK MATTER

front office *noun* [*noncount*] : the people who manage a business or organization (such as a professional sports team) • Many fans blame the team's poor performance on bad decisions made by the *front office*. — often used before another noun • a *front-office* job • *front-office* decisions

front-page /'frʌnt'peɪdʒ/ *adj, always used before a noun*

1 : printed on the front page of a newspaper • a *front-page* story/photograph

2 : very important • *front-page* news • a *front-page* political event

front room *noun, pl ~ rooms* [*count*] : LIVING ROOM

front-run-ner /'frʌnt,rʌnə/ *noun, pl -ners* [*count*] : the person or thing that is most likely to win a race or competition • the presidential *front-runner*

front-wheel drive *noun* [*noncount*] : a system that applies engine power to the front wheels of a vehicle • a car with *front-wheel drive*

frosh /'frɔ:ʃ/ *noun, pl frosh-es* [*count*] *US, informal + old-fashioned* : FRESHMAN

1 frost /'frɔ:st/ *noun, pl frosts*

1 [*noncount*] : a thin layer of ice that forms on the ground, on grass, etc., when the air becomes cold • The grass was covered with *frost*. • light/heavy *frost* • *Frost* formed on the window.

2 [*count*] : the occurrence of weather that is cold enough to cause water to freeze and frost to form • These plants should bloom until the first *frost* of the season. • We had an early/late *frost*. • a killing *frost* [=weather that is so cold that the frost kills plants]

2 frost *verb frosts; frost-ed; frost-ing*

1 a [+ *obj*] : to cover (something) with frost • The cold had *frosted* the windows. **b** [*no obj*] : to become covered with frost • The windows *frosted* (up).

2 [+ *obj*] *chiefly US* : to cover (something, such as a cake) with frosting (sense 1) • I have to *frost* the birthday cake.

3 [+ *obj*] *chiefly US* : to make small strips of your hair lighter so the top layer of your hair is lighter than the rest of it • She *frosts* her bangs.

frost-bite /'frɔ:st,bait/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a condition in which part of your body (such as your fingers or toes) freezes or almost freezes • minor *frostbite* • He wore gloves to prevent *frostbite*.

frost-ed /'frɔ:stəd/ *adj*

1 : having a dull surface that looks as if it is covered with frost • *frosted* glass

2 *chiefly US, of hair* : having very small strips on the top layer of your hair that are lighter than the rest of your hair • She has *frosted* bangs.

frost-ing /'frɔ:stɪŋ/ *noun, pl -ings* [*count*]

1 *chiefly US* : a sweet, creamy mixture that is used to cover cakes • We put *frosting* on the cupcakes. — called also *icing*

2 : a dull surface on metal or glass

frosty /'frɔ:sti/ *adj frost-i-er; -est*

1 : cold enough to produce frost • a *frosty* night

2 : covered with frost • *frosty* windows

3 : unfriendly or cold • a *frosty* stare • We received a *frosty* welcome.

— **frost-i-ly** /'frɔ:stəli/ *adv* • She was glaring *frostily* at us.

— **frost-i-ness** *noun* [*noncount*] • There's some *frostiness* [=coolness] between them. • the *frostiness* of the night

1 froth /'frɔ:θ/ *noun* [*noncount*]

1 : bubbles that form in or on a liquid • *froth* on the waves

2 : something that is appealing but that has no serious value or interest • news shows full of *froth*

— **froth-i-ness** /'frɔ:θɪnəs/ *noun* • the *frothiness* of the cream — **frothy** /'frɔ:θi/ *adj* • the *frothy* waves • a *frothy* comedy

2 froth *verb froths; frothed; froth-ing* [*no obj*] : to produce or form froth • The water *frothed* as the waves broke along the shore.

froth at the mouth **1** : to produce froth from the mouth because of illness or excitement • The dog was *frothing* [=foaming] at the mouth. **2 informal** : to be very angry about something • She was *frothing* [=foaming] at the mouth with rage.

frou-frou /'fru:,fru:/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] *chiefly US, informal* : very heavily decorated and fancy • *frou-frou* designs

1 frown /'fraun/ *noun, pl frowns* [*count*] : a serious facial ex-

pression that usually shows anger, displeasure, or concentration. She was wearing a *frown*. [=she was frowning]

²frown *verb* **frowns; frowned; frown-ing** [no obj] : to make a frown in anger, concentration, etc. • She was *frowning* when she entered the room, so I knew that she was annoyed about something.

frown on/upon [phrasal verb] **frown on/upon** (something) : to disapprove of (something) • The company *frowns on* dating among employees. • Public expressions of affection are *frowned upon* in many cultures.

– **frown-ing-ly** /'fraʊnɪŋli/ *adv* • She stared *frowningly*.

frow-sy also **frow-zy** /'fraʊzi/ *adj* **frow-si-er** also **frow-zi-er; -est** *US, informal* : having a messy or dirty appearance • a *frowsy* old sweater • *frowsy* hair

froze *past tense of* ¹**FREEZE**

frozen *past participle of* ¹**FREEZE**

frozen yogurt *noun, pl ~ -gurts* [count, noncount] *chiefly US* : a sweet frozen dessert that is like ice cream but is made with yogurt

fruc-tose /'frʌk,təʊs/ *noun* [noncount] : a very sweet kind of sugar that is found in fruit juices and honey

fru-gal /'fru:gəl/ *adj* [more ~; most ~]

1 : careful about spending money or using things when you do not need to : using money or supplies in a very careful way • He's a *frugal* shopper. — often + *with* • She's very *frugal with* her money.

2 : simple and plain • a *frugal* meal of bread and cheese

– **fru-gal-i-ty** /'fru:gəli'ti/ *noun* [noncount] • He's admired for his *frugality*. — **fru-gal-ly** /'fru:gəli/ *adv* • She's trying to live *frugally*.

¹fruit /'fru:t/ *noun, pl fruits*

1 *a* : a usually sweet food (such as a blueberry, orange, or apple) that grows on a tree or bush [count] apples, oranges, and other *fruits* [noncount] a bowl/piece of *fruit* — often used before another noun • *fruit* salad [=a mixture of fruits cut into small pieces] • *fruit* juice • a *fruit* tree [=a tree that bears fruit] — see color picture on page C5; see also **FORBIDDEN FRUIT** **b** [count] *technical* : the part of a plant that has the seeds in it (such as the pod of a pea, a nut, a grain, or a berry)

2 [count] : a result or reward that comes from some action or activity — usually plural • They're finally able to enjoy the *fruits* of their labors. • We hope that we'll be able to share in the *fruits* of victory.

3 [count] : something that exists naturally in the world and is useful to people — usually plural • We need to remember that the *fruits* of the earth belong to us all.

bear fruit see ²**BEAR**

the fruit of someone's loins see **LOIN**

²fruit *verb* **fruits; fruit-ed; fruit-ing** [no obj] *technical* : to produce fruit • When will the trees *fruit*?

fruit bat *noun, pl ~ bats* [count] : a large bat that eats fruit and lives in hot parts of the world

fruit-cake /'fru:t,keɪk/ *noun, pl -cakes* [count]

1 : a very sweet cake that contains nuts, fruits, and spices

2 *informal* : a foolish, strange, or crazy person : **NUT** • He's a real *fruitcake*. = He's *as nutty as a fruitcake*.

fruit fly *noun, pl ~ flies* [count] : a small fly that eats fruit or rotting vegetables

fruit-ful /'fru:tʃəl/ *adj* [more ~; most ~] : producing a good result : very productive • We had a *fruitful* discussion about the problems with the schedule. • a *fruitful* meeting • *fruitful* ideas/methods/suggestions — compare **FRUITLESS**

– **fruit-ful-ly** *adv* • These problems could be *fruitfully* addressed. — **fruit-ful-ness** *noun* [noncount]

fru-i-tion /'fru:ʃən/ *noun* [noncount] : the state of being real or complete — used after *come to* or *bring to* • His plans have finally *come to fruition*. [=he has finally done the things that he planned to do] • She was never able to *bring* her dreams *to fruition*. [=she was never able to achieve her dreams]

fruit-less /'fru:tʃləs/ *adj* : producing no good results : not successful • They made a *fruitless* attempt to find a solution. • It would be *fruitless* to continue. • a *fruitless* argument — compare **FRUITFUL**

– **fruit-less-ly** *adv* • They argued *fruitlessly*. — **fruit-less-ness** *noun* [noncount]

fruit machine *noun, pl ~ -chines* [count] *Brit* : **SLOT MACHINE**

fruity /'fru:ti/ *adj* **fruit-i-er; -est**

1 : tasting or smelling like fruit • a *fruity* smell/taste • a *fruity* wine

2 *US, informal* : strange or crazy • She acts a little *fruity*.

3 *Brit, of a voice* : rich and deep

frump /'frʌmp/ *noun, pl frumps* [count] *disapproving* : a woman who wears unattractive clothes or does not make an effort to appear attractive • an old *frump*

frumpy /'frʌmpi/ *adj* **frump-i-er; -est** : dressed in an unattractive way • a *frumpy* housewife; also, *of clothing* : old and unattractive • That's a *frumpy* dress.

frus-trate /'frʌstreɪt/ *verb* **-trates; -trat-ed; -trat-ing** [+ obj]

1 : to cause (someone) to feel angry, discouraged, or upset because of not being able to do something • It *frustrated* him to miss so many games because of injuries. • We've been *frustrated* by bureaucratic delays.

2 : to prevent (efforts, plans, etc.) from succeeding • Bureaucratic delays have *frustrated* our efforts to resolve this problem. : to keep (someone) from doing something • The lack of investors has *frustrated* them in their efforts to expand the company.

frustrated *adj*

1 [more ~; most ~] : very angry, discouraged, or upset because of being unable to do or complete something • By the end of the day, we were all feeling very tired and *frustrated*. • They were getting pretty *frustrated* with/at the delay. • sexually *frustrated* [=wanting to have sex but not able to; not satisfied sexually]

2 *always used before a noun* : trying to do something or gain a skill but not successful • He works in an office, but he's really a *frustrated* actor/writer. [=a person who wants to be an actor/writer but is not]

frus-trat-ing /'frʌstreɪtɪŋ/ *adj* [more ~; most ~] : causing feelings of anger and annoyance • All these delays have been very *frustrating*.

– **frus-trat-ing-ly** *adv* • *frustratingly* long delays

frus-tra-tion /'frʌ'streɪʃən/ *noun, pl -tions*

1 *a* [noncount] : a feeling of anger or annoyance caused by being unable to do something : the state of being frustrated • He shook his head in *frustration*. • These bureaucratic delays have been causing us a lot of *frustration*. **b** [count] : something that causes feelings of anger and annoyance : something that frustrates someone • These delays have proven to be a major *frustration*. • We've been experiencing a lot of *frustrations*.

2 [noncount] : the act of preventing the success of something : the act of frustrating something • He was angry about the *frustration* of his plans.

¹fry /'fraɪ/ *verb* **fries; fried; fry-ing** : to cook (food) in fat or oil [+ obj] They *fried* (up) some chicken for dinner. • They *fried* us some chicken. = They *fried* some chicken for us. • We had *fried* eggs and ham for breakfast. [no obj] We could smell the onions *frying*. — see also **DEEP-FRY**, **PANFRY**, **STIR-FRY**

fish to fry see ¹**FISH**

²fry *noun, pl fries* [count] *US* : **FRENCH FRY** — usually plural • steak and *fries* [= (*Brit*) *chips*] • Would you like an order of *fries* with your hamburger? — see also **FISH FRY**, **STIR-FRY** — compare ³**FRY**

³fry *noun* [plural] : very young fish — see also **SMALL FRY** — compare ²**FRY**

fry-er /'fraɪə/ *noun, pl -ers* [count]

1 : a deep pan for frying foods

2 *chiefly US* : a young chicken that is suitable for frying — compare **BROILER**, **ROASTER**

frying pan *noun, pl ~ pans* [count] : a metal pan that has a long handle and is used for frying — called also (*chiefly US*) *skillet*; see picture at **KITCHEN**

from/out of the frying pan (and) into the fire ♦ If you have gone or jumped *from* or *out of the frying pan (and) into the fire*, you have gone from a bad situation or problem to a worse one.

fry pan *noun, pl ~ pans* [count] *US* : **FRYING PAN**

fry-up /'fraɪʌp/ *noun, pl -ups* [count] *Brit* : a dish or meal of fried food

ft. *abbr* **1** feet; **foot** **2** fort

FTC *abbr* **Federal Trade Commission** • The company is being investigated by the **FTC**. ♦ The Federal Trade Commission is a part of the U.S. federal government that is responsible for preventing unfair or deceptive business practices.

FTP /'ef,tɪ:'pi:/ *noun* [noncount] : a system for sending files from one computer to another computer over the Internet • files sent by **FTP** ♦ **FTP** is an abbreviation of “file transfer protocol.”

fuch·sia /'fju:ʃə/ *noun*, *pl* -sias [*count*, *noncount*]

1 : a type of bush that has large pink, red, purple, or white flowers — see color picture on page C6

2 : a bright reddish-purple color — see color picture on page C3

¹fuck /'fʌk/ *verb* fucks; fucked; fuck-ing ✧ *Fuck* is an extremely offensive word in all of its uses and should be avoided.

1 *offensive + obscene* **a** [*no obj*] : to have sex **b** [*+ obj*] : to have sex with (someone)

2 [*+ obj*] *offensive* : to cheat or mistreat (someone) • They really *fucked* me (over) when they sold me that car.

3 *offensive* — used to express anger, disgust, etc. • I'm tired of waiting. *Fuck* it, let's get out of here. • If you don't like it—*fuck you!* • Oh *fuck*, they've left without us!

fuck off [*phrasal verb*] *offensive* — used as an angry command to tell someone to go away

fuck up [*phrasal verb*] *offensive* 1 : to act stupidly : to make mistakes • You really *fucked up* this time, getting to work so late. 2 *fuck up (something) or fuck (something) up* : to ruin (something) by being stupid or careless • You really *fucked up* our schedule! 3 *fuck up (someone) or fuck (someone) up* : to cause (someone) to become confused, crazy, etc. • The war really *fucked* him up.

fuck with [*phrasal verb*] *offensive* 1 *fuck with (something)* : to handle (something) carelessly : to mess with (something) • Don't you dare *fuck with* my stereo. 2 *fuck with (someone)* : to treat (someone) wrongly : to mess with (someone) • Don't *fuck with* me!

²fuck *noun*, *pl* fucks

1 [*count*] *offensive + obscene* : an act of sexual intercourse

2 [*count*] *offensive + obscene* : a sexual partner

3 *offensive* **a** [*singular*] : anything at all — usually used in negative statements • I don't *give/care a fuck* about their problems. **b** [*noncount*] — used with *the* as a way to make an angry statement or question more forceful • What *the fuck* do they want from me? • Shut *the fuck* up!

4 [*count*] *US, offensive* : FUCKER • He's a stupid *fuck*.

fuck all *noun* [*noncount*] *Brit, offensive* : NOTHING • You've done *fuck all* to help me!

fuck·er /'fʌkə/ *noun*, *pl* -ers [*count*] *offensive* : an annoying person or thing • That little *fucker* is going to get it from me!

fuck·ing /'fʌkɪŋ/ *adj*, *offensive* — used to make an angry statement more forceful • He's such a *fucking* idiot!

— **fucking** *adv*, *offensive* • She thinks she's so *fucking* cool.

fud·dy—dud·dy /'fʌdi,dʌdi/ *noun*, *pl* -dies [*count*] *informal + disapproving* : a person with old-fashioned or conservative ideas and attitudes • He's just an old *fuddy-duddy*.

¹fudge /'fʌdʒ/ *verb* fudg-es; fudged; fudg-ing

1 **a** [*+ obj*] : to fail to deal with (something) in an open and direct way • Politicians have been known to *fudge* the issues. **b** [*no obj*] : to speak or act in a way that is meant to avoid dealing with a problem directly — often + *on* • The company *fudged on* how it would deal with the problem.

2 [*+ obj*] : to change (something) in order to trick people • The treasurer *fudged* the figures. • It was later discovered that the researchers had *fudged* their data. • *fudge* the facts

²fudge *noun*, *pl* fudges

1 [*noncount*] : a soft, sweet brown candy • We bought three kinds of *fudge*. • chocolate *fudge*

2 [*count*] : a statement that does not deal with a problem or issue in a direct way • His response to these charges has been a series of denials and *fudges*.

hot fudge *US* : a hot, thick, chocolate sauce that is usually served on ice cream • a *hot-fudge* sundae [=an ice-cream sundae made with hot fudge]

— **fudgy** /'fʌdʒi/ *adj* fudg-i-er; -est chiefly *US* • *fudgy*, chewy brownies

¹fu·el /'fju:wəl/ *noun*, *pl* fuels

1 [*count*, *noncount*] : a material (such as coal, oil, or gas) that is burned to produce heat or power • a gallon of *fuel* • a 16-gallon *fuel* tank • I had the *fuel* pump replaced on my car. — often used figuratively • Breakfast is my *fuel* to get through the morning. — see also FOSSIL FUEL

2 [*noncount*] : something that gives support or strength to something (such as argument or angry feelings) • These latest scandals will provide further *fuel* for his political opponents. • These latest accusations will only add *fuel* to the controversy. • The controversy continues to rage, and these latest accusations will only add *fuel* to the fire.

²fuel *verb* fuels; *US* fueled or *Brit* fuelled; *US* fuel-ing or *Brit* fuel-ling

1 **a** [*+ obj*] : to supply (something) with fuel • The airplanes were *fueled* in midair. **b** [*no obj*] : to take in fuel • The airplanes *fueled (up)* in midair.

2 [*+ obj*] **a** : to give support or strength to (something) • The criticism she has faced has only *fueled* her determination to succeed. **b** : to provide the necessary conditions for (something) • Inflation was *fueled* by high prices. • The strong economy has *fueled* the construction of new homes.

fuel up [*phrasal verb*] : to put fuel into a car, airplane, etc. • They *fueled up* for their long journey home.

fug /'fʌg/ *noun* [*noncount*] chiefly *Brit* : the unpleasant air in a room that is very crowded, smoky, etc. • They sat in the dense *fug* of a smoky bar.

¹fu·gi·tive /'fju:dgətv/ *noun*, *pl* -tives [*count*] : a person who is running away to avoid being captured • They discovered that the slave was a *fugitive*; especially : a person who is trying to escape being arrested by the police — often + *from* • He's a *fugitive from* the law. • She has been charged with helping a *fugitive from justice*.

²fugitive *adj*, always used before a noun

1 : running away to avoid being captured • a *fugitive* slave

2 *literary* : lasting a very short time • As he daydreamed, *fugitive* thoughts/dreams passed through his mind.

fugue /'fju:g/ *noun*, *pl* fugues [*count*] : a piece of music in which tunes are repeated in complex patterns

¹-ful /fəl/ *adj* suffix

1 : full of • *prideful* • *eventful*

2 : characterized by • *peaceful* • *successful*

3 : having the qualities of • *masterful*

4 : tending or likely to • *forgetful* • *helpful*

²-ful /fəl/ *noun* suffix : the number or amount that fills or would fill • a roomful • a cupful • a spoonful

ful·crum /'fʌlkrəm, 'fʌlkrəm/ *noun*, *pl* ful·crums also ful·cra /'fʌlkrəm, 'fʌlkrə/ [*count*] *technical* : the support on which a lever moves when it is used to lift something

ful·fill (*US*) or *Brit* ful·fil /fʌl'fɪl/ *verb*, *US* fulfills or *Brit* ful·fils; ful·filled; ful·fill-ing [*+ obj*]

1 : to do what is required by (something, such as a promise or a contract) • *fulfill* a promise/vow • He *fulfilled* his pledge to cut taxes. • She failed to *fulfill* her obligations.

2 **a** : to succeed in doing or providing (something) • They haven't yet *fulfilled* [=met, satisfied] the requirements needed to graduate. • The program is intended to *fulfill* the basic needs of children in the community. • The committee was disbanded after it had *fulfilled* its purpose. [=after it had done what it was intended to do] **b** : to succeed in achieving (something) : to make (something, such as a dream) true or real • If we could have that house, our dreams would be *fulfilled*. • He *fulfilled* his childhood wish to become a professional baseball player. • She *fulfilled* her life's ambition when she started her own business. • Their vacation failed to *fulfill* their expectations. [=their vacation was not as good as they expected it to be] • With the money she earned in the stock market, she was finally able to *fulfill* her dreams. [=she was finally able to do the things she had always dreamed of doing] • He has a lot of talent, but he hasn't really *fulfilled* [=lived up to, reached] his potential.

3 : to make (someone or yourself) happy by achieving or doing something that was wished for • Her work *fulfills* her. • He's trying to *fulfill* himself as an artist.

— **ful·fill·ment** (*US*) or *Brit* ful·fil·ment /fʌl'fɪlmənt/ *noun* [*noncount*] • the *fulfillment* of a promise/dream/contract • She found *fulfillment* by starting her own business.

fulfilled *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]

1 : feeling happy and satisfied about life : feeling that your abilities and talents are being fully used • She wants to find a career that will allow her to feel *fulfilled*.

2 : providing happiness and satisfaction • She wants to lead a more *fulfilled* life.

fulfilling *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : providing happiness and satisfaction • My time in college was a happy and *fulfilling* period in my life. • The work has been very *fulfilling*.

¹full /'fʌl/ *adj* full-er; -est

1 : containing or holding as much or as many as possible • a full bottle • The disk is *full*. • The plane was carrying a *full* load of passengers. • The theater was *full* to capacity. — often + *of* • a bottle *full of* milk • a bin *full of* corn

2 always used before a noun **a** : not lacking anything : complete in number, amount, etc. • We bought a *full* set of dishes. • They waited for three *full* months. • He has a *full* array of stereo equipment. • The soldiers were wearing *full* combat

gear. • This will be his first *full* season with the team. ✧ The phrase **a full** is often used to stress the large size of an amount. • He won the match by *a full* seven strokes. • It was *a full* three months before they made a decision. • He's *a full* foot taller than his wife. **b** : not limited in any way • His theories have not yet found *full* acceptance. • I have *full* [=complete] confidence in your honesty. • I hope that you'll give us your *fullest* cooperation. • Please give me your *full* attention. • We need to take *full* advantage of this opportunity. • She's expected to make a *full* recovery. • They're not making *full* use of these resources. • He's now a *full* member of the club. = He now has *full* membership in the club. • the rights of *full* citizenship • a *full* professor • We're still waiting to hear the *full* story of what happened. • She deserves *full* credit for meeting the deadline. **c** : not reduced or shortened • He doesn't like having to pay *full* price. • We could feel the *full* impact of every bump. • What is your *full* name? **d** : existing or working at the highest or greatest degree : developed as much as possible • The flowers were in *full* bloom. • The machine was running at *full* power/speed. • The factory is operating at *full* capacity. • The tree has not yet reached *full* size. • The stereo was at *full* volume. [=was playing as loudly as possible] • After the meeting, he had a *fuller* understanding of the job. • It'll be a few minutes before you feel the *full* effect of the drug. • He hasn't yet realized his *full* potential as a writer.

3 a always used before a noun : including many things • She has a *full* range of interests. [=she is interested in many different things] • The store carries a *full* line of products. **b** : involving many activities • We have a *full* schedule of events planned. • We have a *full* day of work ahead of us. : very active • She lived a very *full* and satisfying life.

4 : having a rounded shape : not thin or narrow • She has a *full* face. • a woman with a *full* figure = a *full*-figured woman • *full* lips

5 : having or containing a great number or amount of something • The room was *full* of pictures. • Despite his problems, he was still *full* of hope. • *full* of enthusiasm • food *full* of flavor • He says the charges against him are *full* of lies.

6 a : having eaten all that is wanted • No dessert for me, thank you. I'm *full*. [= (chiefly Brit) full up] **b** always used before a noun : large enough to satisfy hunger • I like to start the day with a *full* breakfast. • a *full* meal

7 a : having a large amount of material • a *full* skirt/dress **b** : having a large amount of hair • He has a *full* [=thick] head of hair. • a *full* beard

8 : thinking of something all the time • He was *full* of his own concerns. ✧ If you are *full of yourself*, you think of yourself more than you should. • She is certainly very *full of herself*.

9 : having a strong and pleasing quality • a food/wine of *full* flavor • His voice is a *full*, rich baritone.

10 of the moon : appearing as a bright circle • The moon is *full* tonight.

full blast see ¹BLAST

full count see ²COUNT

full of beans see BEAN

full of crap/shit informal + offensive : not to be believed : saying things that are not true • That guy is *full of shit*.

full of it informal + sometimes offensive : not to be believed • His story was so exaggerated that I thought he was *full of it*. • Oh, you're so *full of it*.

full steam/speed ahead — used to say that something is being done with as much speed and power as possible • The work started slowly, but now it's *full steam ahead*. • The campaign is *going full speed ahead*

have your hands full see ¹HAND

not playing with a full deck see ¹DECK

to the fullest : in a very active and energetic way • She likes to live life *to the fullest*.

— **full-ness** also **ful-ness** noun [noncount] • the *fullness* of her voice • The conditioner added *fullness* to her hair. • I expected it would happen *in the fullness of time* [=it would happen eventually]

²full adv

1 : as much as possible : entirely or completely • The cup was filled *full* to the brim.

2 : directly or squarely • The ball hit him *full* in the chest. • He kissed her *full* on the lips.

full out : with as much effort as possible • He was running *full out*. — see also FULL-OUT

full well formal : very well • I *knew full well* who they were. • You *know full well* that it won't be possible for me to go.

³full noun

in full : entirely or completely • The receipt indicated that their bill had been paid *in full*. • Please write your name and address *in full*. [=please write your full name and address]

to the full **1** : to a great or complete degree • I enjoyed the performance *to the full*. : as much as possible • We need to exploit this opportunity *to the full*. **2** : in a very active and energetic way • She likes to live life *to the full*.

full-back /'fʊl,bæk/ noun, pl **-backs** [count]

1 American football : a player on offense who lines up behind the line of scrimmage and who runs with the ball and blocks

2 : a defensive player in games like soccer and field hockey who is usually positioned near the goal

full beam noun [noncount] Brit : HIGH BEAM • The car's headlights were on *full beam*.

full-blood-ed /'fʊl,blədəd/ adj, always used before a noun

1 : having parents who are of the same race or origin • Both his parents were Irish, so he was a *full-blooded* Irishman. • a *full-blooded* Cherokee

2 a : full of enthusiasm, energy, etc. • a *full-blooded* socialist

b : fully developed • They started a *full-blooded* revolution.

full-blown /'fʊl'bloun/ adj : having all of the qualities that are associated with a particular thing or type of person : fully developed • a *full-blown* recession • *full-blown* AIDS • The movie made him a *full-blown* star.

full-bodied /'fʊl,bɔːdɪd/ adj [more ~; most ~] : having a strong and pleasant flavor • a *full-bodied* wine

full circle adv : through a series of changes that lead back to an original position or situation or to an opposite position or situation • Now that she's back on the stage, her career has *come/gone full circle* [=her career began on the stage, and now she has returned to it]

full-court press noun, pl ~ presses [count]

1 basketball : a very aggressive way of playing defense over all areas of the court

2 US : a very aggressive effort or attack usually involving many people • The bill's supporters are mounting/launching a *full-court press* to assure its passage.

full-cream adj, Brit : containing cream • *full-cream* milk [= (US) whole milk] • *full-cream* cheese

full dress noun [noncount] : special clothes that are worn for a ceremony or for important social occasions • The Army required *full dress* be worn to the event. • The officers were in *full dress*. • *full-dress* uniforms

full-dress adj, always used before a noun : involving attention to every detail : very complete or full • a *full-dress* investigation/biography

full-fat adj, always used before a noun, Brit : having no fat removed • *full-fat* dairy products

full-fledged /'fʊl'fledʒd/ adj, always used before a noun, chiefly US

1 : fully developed • The conflict widened into a *full-fledged* war. • a *full-fledged* recession

2 : meeting all the necessary requirements to be something • a *full-fledged* lawyer/member

full-grown adj : having reached full growth or development : fully grown or mature • *full-grown* animals/trees • a *full-grown* man

full house noun, pl ~ houses [count]

1 : a theater or concert hall that is filled with spectators • a singer performing before a *full house*

2 : a set of cards that a player has in a poker game containing three cards of one value and two cards of another value • A hand with three kings and two tens is a *full house*.

full-length /'fʊl,lɛŋθ/ adj

1 : showing all of a person's body from the head to the feet • a *full-length* mirror • a *full-length* portrait

2 : reaching to the end of your legs or arms • a *full-length* dress • a shirt with *full-length* sleeves

3 : having the normal length : not shortened • They staged a *full-length* version of the play.

full marks noun [plural] Brit

1 : praise given for an achievement • *Full marks* to Mary for her excellent suggestion! [=Mary should be praised for her excellent suggestion]

2 : the highest score that you can get on a test — see also *full marks for effort* at EFFORT

full moon noun [singular] : the moon when it appears as a bright circle — compare HALF-MOON, NEW MOON

full-on /'fʊl,ɔːn/ adj, always used before a noun : not limited

in any way • Her new album is *full-on* funk. : fully developed
• a *full-on* barroom brawl

full-out /'fʊl,aʊt/ *adj*, always used before a noun

1 : made or done with as much effort as possible : ALL-OUT • a *full-out* sprint — see also *full out* at ²FULL

2 : fully developed • a *full-out* war

full-scale /'fʊl,skeɪl/ *adj*, always used before a noun

1 : having the same size as the original • They built a *full-scale* replica of the ship. • a *full-scale* model

2 : not limited in any way : using everything that can be used • a *full-scale* war • a *full-scale* investigation

full-ser-vice /'fʊl'sɜːvɪs/ *adj*, always used before a noun

: offering all the necessary or expected services • a *full-service* bank/restaurant • a *full-service* health resort

full-size /'fʊl,sɪz/ *adj*

1 : having the same size as the original : FULL-SCALE • a *full-size* model

2 *US*, of a bed : having a size of 54 inches by 75 inches (about 1.4 by 1.9 meters) — compare KING-SIZE, QUEEN-SIZE, TWIN-SIZE

full stop *noun*, *pl* ~ **stops** [count] *Brit* : ¹PERIOD 5a

full-term /'fʊl,tɜːm/ *adj* : lasting for the normal length of time • a *full-term* pregnancy; also : born after a pregnancy that lasts for the normal length of time • a *full-term* baby

full-time *adj*

1 **a** : working the full number of hours considered normal or standard • *full-time* employees **b** : done during the full number of hours considered normal or standard • a *full-time* job — compare PART-TIME

2 : requiring all of or a large amount of your time • Taking care of children is a *full-time* job.

— **full-time** *adv* • She worked *full-time* at the office. — **full-tim-er** /'fʊl'taɪmə/ *noun*, *pl* -ers [count] • Some of the employees are *full-timers*, but most of them are part-timers.

ful-ly /'fʊli/ *adv*

1 : in every way or detail : completely or entirely • He *fully* recovered from the operation. • They will never *fully* appreciate their luck. • The house is *fully* furnished. • When will the tree be *fully* grown? — sometimes used with *more* and *most* • I've never felt *more fully* alive. • We need to understand these problems *more fully* before we can find a solution to them. • The father is the *most fully* developed character in the novel. — see also *fully booked* at ²BOOK

2 : AT LEAST — used to stress the large size of a number or amount • *Fully* 90 percent of us attended the meeting. • Next year, *fully* three-quarters of the jobs will be unfilled.

ful-ly-fledged /'fʊli'fledʒd/ *adj*, *Brit* : FULL-FLEDGED

ful-mi-nate /'fʊlmə,neɪt, 'fʌlmə,neɪt/ *verb* -nates; -nat-ed; -nat-ing [no obj] *formal* : to complain loudly or angrily • She was *fulminating* about/over/at the dangers of smoking. • The editorial *fulminated* against the proposed tax increase.

— **ful-mi-na-tion** /'fʊlmə'neɪʃən, 'fʌlmə'neɪʃən/ *noun*, *pl* -tions [count] a *fulmination* against the proposed tax increase [noncount] The proposed tax increase has been the subject of much anger and *fulmination*.

ful-some /'fʊlsəm/ *adj* [more ~; most ~] *formal* : expressing something (such as praise or thanks) in a very enthusiastic or emotional way — often used in a disapproving way to describe words that seem excessive or insincere • They were *fulsome* in their praise of her efforts. • a *fulsome* apology

— **ful-some-ly** *adv* • *fulsomely* praised

fum-ble /'fʌmbəl/ *verb* **fum-bles**; **fum-bled**; **fum-bling**

1 [no obj] : to search for something by reaching or touching with your fingers in an awkward or clumsy way • She *fumbled* in her pocket for her keys. • He *fumbled* (around) for the light switch. — often used figuratively • She *fumbled* for an answer but couldn't think of one.

2 : to handle something in an awkward or clumsy way [no obj] — usually + *with* • She *fumbled with* her keys as she tried to unlock the door. [+ obj] They *fumbled* a good opportunity to take control of the market.

3 *sports* : to fail to catch or hold the ball [no obj] He was hit hard and *fumbled* on the 20-yard line. [+ obj] He *fumbled* the ball on the 20-yard line.

— **fumble** *noun*, *pl* **fumbles** [count] • (American football) He had one *fumble* during last week's game. — **fum-bler** *noun*, *pl* -blers [count] — **fum-bling** *adj* • He made a *fum-bling* attempt to explain his behavior.

¹**fume** /'fjuːm/ *noun*, *pl* **fumes** [count] : smoke or gas that smells unpleasant — usually plural • automobile exhaust *fumes*

²**fume** *verb* **fumes**; **fumed**; **fum-ing**

1 **a** [no obj] : to show or feel anger • She's still *fuming* about/over/at not being invited to the party. • We sat there waiting for him, *fuming* with anger at the delay. **b** [+ obj] : to say (something) in an angry way • "They made these changes without even asking our opinion," one employee *fumed*.

2 : to produce or give off (smoke, fumes, etc.) [+ obj] The volcano was *fuming* thick black smoke. [no obj] The volcano was *fuming*.

fu-mi-gate /'fjuːmə,geɪt/ *verb* -gates; -gat-ed; -gat-ing [+ obj] : to remove germs, insects, etc., from (a room or building) with smoke or gas that destroys them • All the hospital rooms had to be *fumigated*. • We had to *fumigate* our apartment to get rid of the ants.

— **fu-mi-ga-tion** /'fjuːmə'geɪʃən/ *noun*, *pl* -tions [count, noncount] — **fu-mi-ga-tor** /'fjuːmə,geɪtə/ *noun*, *pl* -tors [count]

¹**fun** /'fʌn/ *noun* [noncount]

1 : someone or something that is amusing or enjoyable : an enjoyable experience or person • The game was a lot of *fun*. [=the game was very enjoyable] • She's *fun* to be with. = It's *fun* to be with her. = It's *fun* being with her. [=her company is enjoyable] • Picnics are great *fun* [=are very enjoyable] in good weather.

2 : an enjoyable or amusing time • We had *fun* at the movie. [=we enjoyed ourselves at the movie; we enjoyed the movie] • I can't remember when I've had so much *fun*. • a vacation filled with *fun* = a *fun-filled* vacation • a *fun-loving* couple [=a couple who love to have fun]

3 : the feeling of being amused or entertained • He plays cards just for *fun*. = He plays cards just for the *fun* of it. • Sickness takes all the *fun* out of life.

a *figure of fun* : a person who people laugh at and make jokes about in an unkind way • He was a *figure of fun* around town.

in *fun* : in a joking way : in a way that is not serious • Don't take offense: I was only saying it *in fun*.

make *fun of* : to laugh at and make jokes about (someone or something) in an unkind way • The other kids were *making fun of* me. • They *made fun of* the way he talked.

more *fun than a barrel (full) of monkeys* see ¹BARREL

poke *fun at* : to make a joke about (someone or something) usually in a friendly way • I like to *poke fun at* my boss, but he's really not a bad guy.

²**fun** *adj*, always used before a noun, sometimes **fun-ner**; sometimes **fun-nest** *informal* : providing amusement : amusing or enjoyable • Our vacation was a *fun* time. • She's a *fun* person to be with. • The park is a *fun* place to visit. • We had a *fun* time at the movie.

³**fun** *verb* **funs**; **funned**; **fun-ning** [no obj] *US*, *informal* : to speak or act in a way that is not serious • I don't want you to get angry; I was only *funning*. [= (more commonly) *joking*, *fooling*] • He's just *funning* with you.

fun and games *noun* [plural] : activity that is meant to be enjoyable rather than serious • The family reunion was full of *fun and games*. — often used in a disapproving way to describe activity that is considered silly and not useful • The convention is just an excuse for journalistic *fun and games*.

¹**func-tion** /'fʌŋkʃən/ *noun*, *pl* -tions

1 : the special purpose or activity for which a thing exists or is used [count] The *function* of the heart is to pump blood through the body. • He believes that the true *function* of art is to tell the truth. • What *functions* do these programs fulfill/perform/serve? • infants learning to control their bodily *functions* [noncount] The instrument is chiefly used to measure and record heart *function*. • The design achieves a perfect blend of *form and function*.

2 [count] : the job or duty of a person • His job combines the *functions* of a manager and a worker. • Her chief/main/primary/principal *function* is to provide expert legal advice.

3 [count] : a large ceremony or social event • They went to several *functions* during their college reunion weekend. • a social *function*

4 [count] **a** : something (such as a quality or measurement) that is related to and changes with something else • Height is a *function* of age in children. [=the height of children increases as their age increases] **b** : something that results from something else • His personal problems are a *function* of [=a result of] his drinking.

²**function** *verb* -tions; -tioned; -tion-ing [no obj]

1 : to work or operate • The new machine *functions* well. • His bad health has prevented him from being able to *func-*

tion effectively in recent weeks. • Her heart now seems to be *functioning* normally. • The computer network is not yet fully *functioning*. • Stress may interfere with (the) normal *functioning* of the immune system.

2 : to have a specified function, role, or purpose : SERVE — usually + *as* • Teachers also *function as* counselors. • The couch was designed to also *function as* a bed.

func-tion-al /'fʌŋkʃənəl/ *adj*

1 : designed to have a practical use • They worked outside, so they preferred wearing *functional* clothes. • The building's design is not only *functional* but also beautiful. • *functional* and decorative pottery

2 medical : affecting the way a part of your body works • a *functional* heart disorder

3 : working properly • The flashlight was still *functional* after I dropped it. • The computer network is fully *functional*.

4 : of or relating to the use or function of something • the *functional* differences between the departments

— **func-tion-al-ly** *adv*

func-tion-al-i-ty /,fʌŋkʃə'næləti/ *noun, pl -ties*

1 [noncount] : the quality of having a practical use : the quality of being functional • a design that is admired both for its beauty and for its *functionality*

2 : the particular use or set of uses for which something is designed [noncount] The cameras are comparable in price and *functionality*. [count] a device with new *functionalities*

func-tion-ary /'fʌŋkʃənəri, Brit 'fʌŋkʃənəri/ *noun, pl -aries* [count] : a person who works for a government or political party • He was a party *functionary* during the political campaign.

function key *noun, pl ~ keys* [count] : any one of a set of keys on a computer keyboard that have special uses

function word *noun, pl ~ words* [count] *linguistics* : a word (such as a preposition or a conjunction) that is used mainly to show grammatical relationships between other words

¹fund /'fʌnd/ *noun, pl funds*

1 [count] : an amount of money that is used for a special purpose • the library's book *fund* • The *fund* was established to aid the poor. • a pension *fund* — see also MUTUAL FUND, SLUSH FUND, TRUST FUND

2 funds [plural] : available money • All her *funds* were in a checking account. • His *funds* were getting lower as he continued to look for a job. • raising campaign *funds* • I'm a little short of *funds* right now. [=I don't have much money right now]

3 [singular] : an amount of something that is available for use : a supply of something • The comedian had a large *fund* of jokes.

²fund *verb funds; fund-ed; fund-ing* [+ *obj*] : to provide money for (something) • The group *funded* three new scholarships. • Who *funds* the company pension plan? • The program is *funded* by the state. = The program is state-funded. • The plan is fully *funded*. [=the plan is provided with all the money it requires]

— **funding** *noun* [noncount] • The program relies on *funding* from the state. = The program relies on state *funding*.

¹fun-da-men-tal /,fʌndə'mentl/ *adj* [more ~; most ~]

1 : forming or relating to the most important part of something : BASIC • The Constitution ensures our *fundamental* rights. • There's a *fundamental* difference between these two political parties. • a *fundamental* truth/concept/belief — often + *to* • beliefs that are *fundamental to* our society

2 : of or relating to the basic structure or function of something • These ideas are of *fundamental* importance. • The revolution brought about a *fundamental* change in the country. • We need to make some *fundamental* changes in the way we do business. • We need to address these problems on a more *fundamental* level.

²fundamental *noun, pl -tals* [count] : one of the basic and important parts of something : a fundamental part — usually plural • Reading, writing, and arithmetic are the *fundamentals* of education. • the *fundamentals* of algebra

fun-da-men-tal-ist /,fʌndə'mentəlist/ *noun, pl -ists* [count] : a person who strictly and literally follows a set of rules and laws especially about religion • a religious *fundamentalist*

— **fun-da-men-tal-ism** /,fʌndə'mentəlizəm/ *noun* [non-count] • religious *fundamentalism* — **fundamentalist** *adj* • *fundamentalist* beliefs

fun-da-men-tal-ly /,fʌndə'mentli/ *adv* : at the most basic level • All people are *fundamentally* the same. = *Fundamen-*

tally, all people are the same. • *fundamentally* important principles • I disagree with some of her points, but *fundamentally* she's right. • His plan is *fundamentally* different.

fund-rais-er /'fʌnd,reizə/ *noun, pl -ers* [count]

1 : a person who collects money for a political party, charity, school, etc.

2 : a social event held to collect money for a political party, charity, school, etc.

fund-rais-ing /'fʌnd,reizɪŋ/ *noun* [noncount] : activity done to collect money for a political party, charity, school, etc. • political *fund-raising* • a *fund-raising* dinner/campaign

fu-ner-al /'fju:nərəl/ *noun, pl -als* [count] : a ceremony held for a dead person • Only family attended the *funeral*. • His *funeral* will be held on Friday. • a *funeral* procession/service • His cousin made the *funeral* arrangements.

it's your funeral informal — used to say that you will have to deal with the unpleasant result of your actions • Tell the boss she's wrong if you like: *it's your funeral!*

funeral director *noun, pl ~ -tors* [count] : a person whose job is to arrange and manage funerals : UNDERTAKER

funeral home *noun, pl ~ homes* [count] : a place where dead people are prepared for burial or cremation and where wakes and funerals are held — called also (US) *funeral parlor*

fu-ne-re-al /'fju'nirijəl/ *adj* : very sad and serious : suggesting a funeral • a *funereal* silence • *funereal* music

fun-fair /'fʌn,feə/ *noun, pl -fairs* [count] *Brit* : an outdoor event at which there are various kinds of games, rides, and entertainment

fun-gal /'fʌŋgəl/ *adj* : of, relating to, or caused by a fungus • a *fungus* disease/infection

fungi *plural of FUNGUS*

fun-gi-cide /'fʌŋdʒə,said, 'fʌŋgə,said/ *noun, pl -cides* [count, noncount] : a substance that kills fungi

fun-gus /'fʌŋgəs/ *noun, pl fun-gi* /'fʌn,dʒai, 'fʌŋ,gai/ *also fun-gus-es* [count] : any one of a group of related plants (such as molds, mushrooms, or yeasts) that have no flowers and that live on dead or decaying things

fun house *noun, pl ~ houses* [count] *US* : a building in an amusement park with many features that amuse and surprise people as they walk or ride through it

fu-nic-u-lar /'fju'nikjələ/ *noun, pl -lars* [count] : a railway going up and down a mountain that carries people in cars pulled by a moving cable

¹funk /'fʌŋk/ *noun, pl funks* [count] *chiefly US, informal* : a condition in which you are unable to think or behave normally because you are sad, depressed, etc. — usually singular • She seems to be coming out of her *funk*. — usually used after *in* or *into* • He had been *in a (blue) funk* since failing the exam. • She went *into a dark/deep funk* after she lost her job. — sometimes used figuratively • The country is *in an economic funk*. [=the country's economy is doing poorly] — compare ²FUNK

²funk *noun* [noncount] : a type of popular music that has a strong beat and that combines traditional forms of African-American music (such as blues, gospel, or soul) — compare ¹FUNK

funky /'fʌŋki/ *adj* **funk-i-er; -est**

1 : having the style or feeling of funk music • *funky* music • The music had a *funky* beat.

2 informal : stylish or appealing in an unusual way • We had dinner at a *funky* little Italian restaurant. • a *funky* bar

3 US : having a strange or unpleasant odor • Something in the closet smells a little *funky*.

¹fun-nel /'fʌn/ *noun, pl -nels* [count]

1 : a device shaped like a hollow cone with a tube extending from the point ♦ A funnel is used for pouring something (such as a liquid) into a narrow opening.

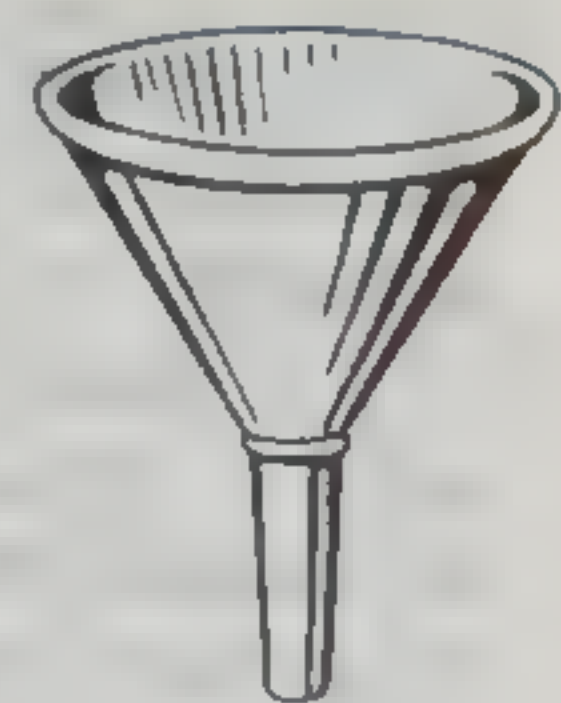
2 : something that is shaped like a funnel • the *funnel* cloud of a tornado

3 : a large pipe on a ship through which smoke or steam comes out

²funnel *verb, always followed by an adverb or preposition -nels; US -neled or Brit -nelled; US -nel-ing or Brit -nel-ling*

1 : to pass through a funnel or a narrow opening [no *obj*] Winds *funneled* through the canyon. • Smoke *funneled* up the chimney. • The crowd *funneled* through the doors. [+ *obj*] He *funneled* the gas into the tank.

2 [+ *obj*] : to send (something, such as money) to someone or something in usually an indirect or secret way • They *fun-*



funnel

neled money into the campaign. • The information was being secretly *funneled* to the head of the organization.

fun-nies /'fʌnɪz/ *noun*

the funnies *US, informal* : the comic strips in a newspaper : the part of a newspaper that has comic strips • They enjoyed reading *the funnies* [=the comics] in the Sunday newspapers.

¹fun-ny /'fʌni/ *adj* **fun-ni-er; -est**

1 : causing laughter • He told a *funny* story. • He's a very *funny* guy. • What's so *funny*? • What are you laughing at? There's nothing *funny* about it. • It's not that *funny*. • a *funny* story/movie

2 informal : odd or strange • There's something *funny* going on here. • She has some *funny* ideas about how to run a company. • "I can't find my keys." "That's *funny*—they were here a minute ago." • "That's *funny*." "Do you mean *funny* peculiar/strange or *funny* ha-ha?" [=by "funny" do you mean "odd" or "amusing"?] • My car has been making a *funny* noise lately. • A *funny* thing happened to me the other day. • a *funny*-looking hat • It feels *funny* to be back here again. • It's *funny* that you should say that—I was just thinking the same thing myself. • *Funny*, things didn't turn out the way we planned. [=it's odd that things didn't turn out the way we planned]

3 not used before a noun, informal : not well : somewhat ill • My stomach feels *funny*. • I feel a little *funny*. • (*chiefly Brit*) After the accident he went a bit *funny* in the head.

4 informal : not honest : meant to deceive someone • The guard told his prisoner not to try anything *funny*. • Fake bidding and other *funny business* [=dishonest activity] occurred during the auction.

— **fun-ni-ly** /'fʌnəli/ *adv* • There's something *funnily* [=oddly] familiar about him. • *Funnily* (enough), she never even mentioned our first meeting.

²funny *adv, informal* : in an odd or strange way • He's been acting *funny* lately. • She looked at me *funny*.

funny bone *noun, pl ~ bones* [count] : a place at the back of your elbow where you feel a painful tingling sensation when it is hit • I hit my *funny bone* on the edge of the table. — called also (*US*) *crazy bone* ♦ Something that *tickles your funny bone* is amusing to you. • Parts of the movie really *tickled my funny bone*.

funny farm *noun*

the funny farm *informal + humorous* : a hospital for people who are mentally ill ♦ *The funny farm* is now often considered offensive.

fun-ny-man /'fʌni,mæn/ *noun, pl -men* /-,men/ [count] *informal* : a man who is funny; *especially* : a professional comedian

funny money *noun* [noncount] *informal* : fake money : counterfeit money

funny papers *noun* [plural] *US, informal* : FUNNIES

fur /'fɜ:/ *noun, pl furs*

1 [noncount] : the hairy coat of an animal especially when it is soft and thick • The cat has black-and-white *fur*. • The rabbit's *fur* is soft.

2 a : the fur of an animal used for clothing [noncount] Her gloves are lined with *fur*. [count] He made his fortune trading *furs* in the 17th century. — often used before another noun • a *fur* coat/collar **b** [count] : a piece of clothing (such as a coat) made with fur • Her new *fur* is a full-length mink coat. **c** [noncount] : a material that looks and feels like the fur of an animal • a teddy bear with soft *fur* • fake/imitation *fur*

3 [noncount] *Brit* : a hard material that forms in metal pipes, boilers, etc. : SCALE

fur flies *informal* ♦ When (the) *fur flies*, someone becomes very angry or upset. • When she finds out about this, *fur* will *fly*. [=she will be very angry]

— **furred** /'fɜ:d/ *adj* • a thickly *furred* animal • (*Brit*) a thickly *furred* boiler

fu-ri-ous /'fjuriəs/ *adj* [more ~; most ~]

1 : very angry • She's *furious* at/over how slowly the investigation is proceeding. • I was *furious* with/at them for printing the story. • a *furious* argument

2 a : very powerful or violent • a *furious* storm **b** : very active or fast • We worked all night at a *furious* pace.

fast and furious see ¹FAST

— **fu-ri-ous-ly** *adv* • She shouted at him *furiously*. • working *furiously* [=at a furious pace]

furl /'fɜ:l/ *verb* **furls; furled; furl-ing** [+ *obj*] : to wrap or roll

(something, such as a sail or a flag) close to or around something • They *furled* the sails.

fur-long /'fɜ:lɔ:n/ *noun, pl -longs* [count] : a unit of distance equal to 220 yards (about 201.2 meters) or 1/8 of a mile — used chiefly in horse racing

¹fur-lough /'fɜ:lɒ:/ *noun, pl -loughs* [count]

1 : a period of time when a soldier is allowed to leave the place where he or she is stationed • a four-week *furlough*

2 US : a period of time when an employee is told not to come to work and is not paid • *furloughs* of federal workers • Each employee will have a one-day *furlough* every month.

3 US : a period of time when a prisoner is allowed to leave prison

on furlough : having a furlough : allowed or required to leave because of a furlough • soldiers going home *on furlough* • workers/prisoners *on furlough*

²furlough *verb -loughs; -loughed; -lough-ing* [+ *obj*]

1 : to grant a furlough to (someone) • *furlough* a soldier • (*US*) The prison will *furlough* certain inmates.

2 US : to put (a worker) on furlough • The company will consider *furloughing* a small number of workers.

fur-nace /'fɜ:nəs/ *noun, pl -naces* [count] : an enclosed container in which heat is produced: such as **a** : one for melting metals • *stoke a furnace* — see also BLAST FURNACE **b** *chiefly US* : one for heating a building or apartment — called also (*chiefly Brit*) *boiler*

fur-nish /'fɜ:nɪʃ/ *verb -nish-es; -nished; -nish-ing* [+ *obj*]

1 : to provide (a room or building) with furniture • The inn is beautifully *furnished*. • He has enough money to *furnish* the apartment nicely. — often + *with* • We are *furnishing* the office *with* contemporary pieces. • She *furnished* her home *with* antiques.

2 a : to supply or give (something) to someone or something : PROVIDE • We'll *furnish* the food for the party. • Can he *furnish* the information to us? **b** : to supply or give to (someone) something that is needed or wanted : PROVIDE — + *with* • Students are *furnished with* all the necessary materials for the course. • Can he *furnish* us *with* the information?

— **furnished** *adj* • He moved from a *furnished* room to an unfurnished apartment.

fur-nish-ings /'fɜ:nɪʃɪŋz/ *noun* [plural] : pieces of furniture, curtains, rugs, and decorations for a room or building • The room has very comfortable *furnishings*.

fur-ni-ture /'fɜ:nɪʃə/ *noun* [noncount] : chairs, tables, beds, etc., that are used to make a room ready for use • They bought some new *furniture* for the house. • The office *furniture* is wearing out. • a large piece of *furniture*

fu-ror (*US*) /'fju:ɔ:,ə, 'fju:ɔ:/ also *chiefly Brit* **fu-rore** /'fju:ɔ:,ə, *Brit* /'fju:'rɔ:ri/ *noun* [singular] : a situation in which many people are very angry and upset • The book caused/created a *furor* across the country. • Amid a public *furor*, the senator continues to deny the allegations.

fur-ri-er /'fɜ:riə/ *noun, pl -ers* [count] : a person who sells or makes fur clothing

¹fur-row /'fɜ:rou/ *noun, pl -rows* [count]

1 : a long and narrow cut in the ground • We plowed *furrows* in the field.

2 : a narrow line or wrinkle in the skin of a person's face • When he frowns a deep *furrow* forms in his brow.

plough a furrow *Brit, literary* ♦ If you *plough your own furrow*, you do something that is different from what other people do. • She was not afraid to *plough her own furrow*. [=to act independently; to do something no one else has done] If you *plough the same furrow*, you do the same thing someone else does. • He was not content to *plough the same furrow* as his father. If you *plough a lone/lonely furrow*, you do something alone or do something that no one else will do. • She has had to *plough a lone/lonely furrow* in her pursuit of reform.

²furrow *verb -rows; -rowed; -row-ing* : to make furrows in (something) [+ *obj*] plows *furrowing* the fields • He *furrowed* his brow. [no *obj*] His forehead *furrows* when he frowns.

— **furrowed** *adj* • a *furrowed* brow/forehead • a *furrowed* field

fur-ry /'fɜ:ri/ *adj* **fur-ri-er; -est**

1 : covered with fur • My children love *furry* animals.

2 a : covered with something that looks or feels like fur • The plant has *furry* leaves. • *furry* slippers **b** : resembling fur • *Furry* mold was growing on the cheese.

¹fur-ther /'fɜ:ðə/ *adv*

1 : to or at a more distant place or time : FARTHER • He lives *further* (away) from the office than his boss. • We need to

look back *further* into the past to find the cause of these problems. • I've never been *further* west than St. Louis. • Their house is *further* up/down the street. • The road ended and we couldn't go any *further*. [=we couldn't go beyond that point]

2 : to a greater degree or extent • We need to research/look *further* into this matter. • The police have been reluctant to take their investigation any *further*. • I do not want anything *further* [=more] to do with this mess. • I don't know anything *further* [=more] about what really happened. • The interview ended before they could question me *further*. [=more] • Interest rates fell *further*. [=more] • "They are not our friends." "I would go even *further* and say they are our enemies." • Some people claim that he is an arrogant man, but *nothing could be further from the truth*. [=it is completely untrue to say that he is an arrogant man] • Some people expect him to retire, but he says that *nothing could be further from his mind*. [=he has no intention of retiring] • Don't worry, what you've told me will *go no further*. [=I will not tell anyone else what you have told me]

3 formal : in addition to what has been said : FURTHER-MORE • I had enough money to invest. I realized, *further*, that the risk was small.

further to Brit, formal — used in a letter to refer to a subject discussed in a previous letter or conversation • *Further to my letter of last Wednesday, may I remind you that the money outstanding has still not been paid.*

2 further *adj*

1 : ADDITIONAL, MORE • *Further* study/research is needed. • He will undergo *further* questioning. • If you need *further* information/details, you can call me. • We do not expect any *further* deliveries today. • I have nothing *further* to say. • There is a *further* problem: do we have enough money? • The library will be closed *until further notice*. [=until some time in the future which has not yet been decided or stated]

2 : more distant : FARTHER • We parked in the *further* lot. • There is more damage to the *further* part of the fence.

3 *further verb -thers; -thered; -ther-ing* [+ *obj*] : to help the progress of (something) : to cause (something) to become more successful or advanced • He will do all he can to *further* [=promote] the cause. • What can I do to *further* [=advance] my career? • Their efforts greatly *furthered* the state of research. • The funds are to be used to *further* the public good.

fur-ther-ance /'fəðərəns/ *noun* [noncount] *formal* : the act of helping something to become more successful or advanced : ADVANCEMENT • They made the *furtherance* of science their life's work. • His main concern is with the *furtherance* [=promotion] of his own agenda.

further education *noun* [noncount] *Brit* : courses of study for adults : CONTINUING EDUCATION

fur-ther-more /'fəðə'moə/ *adv, formal* : in addition to what has been said : MOREOVER — used to introduce a statement that supports or adds to a previous statement • These findings seem plausible. *Furthermore*, several studies have confirmed them. • She always arrives on time. Her work, *furthermore*, has always been excellent.

1 furth-est /'fəðəst/ *adv*

1 : to or at the greatest distance in space or time : FARTHEST • The best table is *furthest* from the kitchen. • Who can run (the) *furthest* in five minutes?

2 : to the most advanced point : FARTHEST • She went the *furthest* [=she made the greatest effort] to research the issue.

3 : by the greatest degree or extent : MOST • Of all his paintings, this one is the *furthest* removed from reality.

2 *furthest adj, always used before a noun* : most distant in space or time : FARTHEST • Their ideas fall at the *furthest* extremes of the political spectrum. • He says that retiring is *the furthest thing from his mind*. [=he is not thinking at all about retiring; he has no intention of retiring]

fur-tive /'fətv/ *adj* [more ~; most ~] : done in a quiet and secret way to avoid being noticed • He cast a *furtive* glance in our direction. • We exchanged *furtive* smiles across the table. • *furtive* movements

— **fur-tive-ly** *adv* • He looked *furtively* at the clock. • She slipped *furtively* out of the room. — **fur-tive-ness** *noun* [noncount]

fu-ry /'fjuri/ *noun, pl -ries*

1 : violent anger : RAGE [noncount] I could see the *fury* in her eyes. • Nothing could contain his *fury* over their accusations. • He turned away from them in *fury*. [singular] ♦ If you are *in a fury*, you are very angry. • She rose *in a fury* and stalked out of the room. ♦ If you *fly into a fury*, you become

very angry. • He *flew into a fury* [=flew into a rage] and began shouting at them. *synonyms* see ¹ANGER

2 [noncount] : wild and dangerous force • The hurricane unleashed its *fury* on hundreds of homes and businesses.

sound and fury see ¹SOUND

1 *fuse* /'fju:z/ *noun, pl fus-es* [count] : a device that causes electricity to stop flowing when a current becomes too strong • The lights went out when the *fuse* blew. • *change a fuse*

blow a fuse informal : to become very angry or upset • The boss *blew a fuse* when the shipment didn't arrive on time.

— compare ²FUSE

2 fuse *noun, pl fuses* [count]

1 : a string that is connected to an explosive device (such as a bomb or firecracker) and that is set on fire to cause the device to explode • *light a fuse*

2 also US fuze : a mechanical or electrical device that causes a weapon (such as a bomb or torpedo) to explode

a short fuse informal ♦ If you *have a short fuse* or you are *on a short fuse*, you become angry very quickly. • The boss is known to be *on a short fuse*.

— compare ¹FUSE

3 fuse *verb fuses; fused; fus-ing*

1 : to join or become joined because of heat or a chemical reaction [no *obj*] During the reaction the atoms *fuse* (together). • The melted metals *fused* (with each other). [+ *obj*] Particles are *fused* to form a new compound. • He *fused* the wires (together).

2 : to join or combine (different things) together [+ *obj*] His compositions *fuse* jazz and rhythm and blues elements. • Their approach *fused* ideas from several disciplines. [no *obj*] Dreams and reality *fuse* (together) in her latest film. = Dreams *fuse* with reality in her latest film.

3 Brit : to stop working because a fuse has blown [no *obj*] The light *fused* and left us in the dark. [+ *obj*] I must have *fused* the light by accident.

fuse box *noun, pl ~ boxes* [count] : a box that contains the fuses for the electrical system in a building

fu-se-lage /'fju:sə,lɑ:ʒ, Brit 'fju:zə,lɑ:ʒ/ *noun, pl -lag-es* [count] : the main part of an airplane : the part of an airplane that holds the crew, passengers, and cargo — see picture at AIRPLANE

fu-sil-lade /'fju:sə,lɑ:d, Brit 'fju:zə'leɪd/ *noun* [singular] : a large number of shots that are fired very quickly • A *fusillade* of bullets filled the courtyard. — often used figuratively • She faced a *fusillade* [=barrage, flurry] of accusations. • a *fu-sillade* of obscenities

fu-sion /'fju:ʒn/ *noun, pl -sions*

1 : a combination or mixture of things [count] a *fusion* of different methods • a *fusion* of musical styles • The show is a *fusion* of news and entertainment. [noncount] The *fusion* of different cultural influences is evident in her sculpture.

2 [noncount] *physics* : a process in which the nuclei of atoms are joined • a *fusion* reactor/reaction ♦ A large amount of energy is released when fusion occurs. — called also *nuclear fusion*; compare FISSION

3 [noncount] : a type of popular music that combines different styles (such as jazz and rock)

4 [noncount] : food prepared by combining methods and ingredients from different areas of the world — called also *fusion cuisine*

1 fuss /'fʌs/ *noun*

1 : activity or excitement that is unusual and that often is not wanted or necessary [noncount] They got down to business without any *fuss*. • What is all the *fuss* about? [singular] Her new novel has caused quite a *fuss*. — often used with *make* • We'd love to come to dinner, but please don't *make a fuss*. [=don't do a lot of extra things that you would not usually do] • (US) Everyone *made* such a *fuss* over the baby. = (Brit) Everyone *made* such a *fuss* of the baby. [=everyone paid a lot of excited attention to the baby]

2 : an expression of anger or complaint especially about something that has little importance [noncount] She accepted the new assignment without any *fuss*. [=she did not complain about the new assignment] — often used with *make* • She accepted the new assignment without *making* any *fuss*. [singular] I don't want to *make a fuss*, but this soup is cold.

2 fuss *verb fuss-es; fussed; fuss-ing* [no *obj*]

1 : to be or become upset or worried • She'll *fuss* the whole time we're gone. • I told him not to *fuss*. ♦ In informal British English, someone who is *not fussed* is not bothered or worried. • We can eat at either restaurant: I'm *not fussed*. =

I'm *not fussed* about which restaurant we eat at.

2 US : to show that you are annoyed or unhappy • The baby *fussed* all day. • Stop *fussing* and get to work! • He's *fussing* about his new assignment.

fuss over [phrasal verb] **fuss over (someone or something)** : to pay a lot of attention to (someone or something) in a nervous or excited way • Everyone *fussed over* the baby. • He spent hours *fussing over* the details of the speech. • I don't want anyone to *fuss over* me.

fuss with [phrasal verb] **fuss with (something)** : to move or handle (something) in a nervous or uncertain way : to fiddle with (something) • He *fussed with* his tie the whole time we were talking. • She's always *fussing with* her hair.

fuss·bud·get /'fʌs,bʌdʒət/ *noun*, *pl* -gets [count] *US, informal* + *disapproving* : a person who worries or complains about small things : a fussy person • a grumpy old *fussbudget*

fuss·pot /'fʌs,pɒt/ *noun*, *pl* -pots [count] *chiefly Brit, informal* + *disapproving* : FUSSBUDGET

fussy /'fʌsi/ *adj* **fuss·i·er; -est**

1 : very careful or too careful about choosing or accepting things : hard to please • a *fussy* shopper • She's always been *fussy* [=picky] about food. • I'm not *fussy* about where we eat. • This plant is not *fussy* about soil quality. [=this plant will grow well even in poor soil]

2 US : often upset or unhappy • a very *fussy* baby

3 disapproving : too fancy or complicated • a *fussy* dress • *fussy* curtains/wallpaper • The room was cluttered and *fussy*.

— **fuss·i·ly** /'fʌsəli/ *adv* — **fuss·i·ness** *noun* [noncount]

fus·ty /'fʌsti/ *adj* **fus·ti·er; -est**

1 : full of dust and unpleasant smells : not fresh : MUSTY • a *fusty* cottage • The trunk was full of *fusty* clothing.

2 : very old-fashioned • *fusty* notions about art

fu·tile /'fju:tɪl, 'fju:tajəl/ *adj* [more ~; most ~] : having no result or effect : pointless or useless • All our efforts proved *fu·tile*. • a *fu·tile* and foolish gesture • They made a *fu·tile* [=vain] attempt to control the flooding.

— **fu·tile·ly** *adv* — **fu·til·i·ty** /'fju:tɪləti/ *noun* [noncount] • His speech focused on the *fu·tili·ty* of violence. • They demonstrated the *fu·tili·ty* of the plan. • an exercise in *fu·tili·ty*

fu·ton /'fu:tən/ *noun*, *pl* -tons [count] : a mattress that is used on the floor or in a frame as a bed, couch, or chair

¹**fu·ture** /'fju:tʃə/ *noun*, *pl* -tures

1 a [noncount] : the period of time that will come after the present time • (Brit) He promises to do better *in future*. [=from now on; from this time onward] — usually used with *the* • (US) He promises to do better *in the future*. • We're making plans for *the future*. • They will hire more people sometime *in the future*. • What do you think you will be doing *in the future*? • What does/will *the future* hold for you? • *the* near/immediate *future* • *the* foreseeable *future* • Changes are expected *in the not too distant future*. [=soon] **b the future** : the events that will happen after the present time • It's impossible to predict *the future*.

2 [count] : the condition or situation of someone or something in the time that will come • He has a promising *future* (ahead of him). • Their *future* looks bright. • The company faces an uncertain *future*. • The *future* was already decided for her. • There is *no future for you* in this business. = You *have no future* in this business. [=there is no chance that you will succeed in this business]

3 the future *grammar* : FUTURE TENSE

4 futures [plural] *finance* : goods or shares that are bought at prices which are agreed to now but that are delivered at a later time • He made a fortune trading in oil *futures*.

mortgage the/your future see ²MORTGAGE

²**future** *adj*, always used before a noun

1 : coming after the present time : existing in the future • We cannot predict *future* events. • *Future* generations will benefit from this research. • You should keep these instructions *for future reference*. [=so that you can refer to them when you need to in the future]

2 — used to say what someone or something will be • He met his *future* wife [=the woman who would become his wife] at college. • the country's *future* king

future perfect *noun* [noncount] *grammar* : a verb tense that is used to refer to an action that will be completed by a specified time in the future • The *future perfect* in English is formed with “will have” and “shall have,” as in “They will have left by the time we arrive.”

future tense *noun*, *pl* ~ *tenses* [count] *grammar* : a verb tense that is used to refer to the future • The *future tense* in English is formed with “will” or “shall.” • a verb in the *future tense*

fu·tur·ist /'fju:tʃərɪst/ *noun*, *pl* -ists [count] : a person who tries to tell what the future will be like

fu·tur·is·tic /'fju:tʃə'rɪstɪk/ *adj*

1 [more ~; most ~] : very modern • *futuristic* furniture/designs • The new offices are very *futuristic*.

2 a : relating to or telling about events in the future • a *futuristic* novel/story **b** : existing in the future • The film depicts a *futuristic* society.

fu·tu·ri·ty /'fju:tʃərəti, Brit 'fju:tjuərəti/ *noun* [noncount] *formal* : the quality of being or happening in the future • In English we can express *futurity* with “will” and “shall.”

fu·tur·olo·gy /'fju:tʃə'rɒ:lədʒi/ *noun* [noncount] : the study of what might happen in the future

— **fu·tur·olo·gist** /'fju:tʃə'rɒ:lədʒɪst/ *noun*, *pl* -ists [count]

fuze *US variant spelling of* ²FUSE 2

fuzz /'fʌz/ *noun*

1 [noncount] : short, soft hairs • The baby's head is covered with/in *fuzz*. • the *fuzz* on a peach

2 [noncount] : small, light pieces of cloth or other soft material • The blanket is covered with *fuzz*.

3 the fuzz *old-fashioned slang* : the police • He was arrested by *the fuzz*.

fuzzy /'fʌzi/ *adj* **fuzz·i·er; -est**

1 : covered with short, soft hairs, fur, etc. : covered with fuzz • a *fuzzy* sweater/blanket • The plant has *fuzzy* leaves. • a *fuzzy* stuffed toy

2 a : not clear : not sharp or distinct • The picture in the newspaper is *fuzzy*. [=blurred, blurry] • Without my glasses everything looks *fuzzy*. • The line between our areas of responsibility is *fuzzy*. **b** : not clear in thought • I think his reasoning is a little *fuzzy*.

3 US, informal : pleasant or comforting — usually used with *warm* • Seeing her again after all these years gave me a *warm, fuzzy* feeling. • His personality is not exactly *warm and fuzzy*.

— see also WARM FUZZIES

— **fuzz·i·ly** /'fʌzəli/ *adv* — **fuzz·i·ness** *noun* [noncount]

fuzzy logic *noun* [noncount] *technical* : a system of logic in which statements do not have to be entirely true or false

fwd. *abbr* forward

f-word /'ef,wəd/ *noun*

the f-word or the F-word — used as a way to refer to the offensive word “fuck” without saying it or writing it • He got in trouble for using *the f-word* on television.

-fy /faɪ/ *verb suffix* : cause to become • beautify • purify

FYI *abbr* for your information — used when you are providing someone with interesting or useful information in a note, an e-mail message, etc. • *FYI*, the meeting has been postponed to next week.

G

g or G /'dʒi:/ *noun*, *pl* g's or gs or G's or Gs

1 : the seventh letter of the English alphabet [count] There are two g's in “bigger.” [noncount] words that end in g

2 : a musical note or key referred to by the letter G : the fifth tone of a C-major scale [count] play/sing a G [noncount] The song is in the key of G.

3 [count] : the force of gravity at the Earth's surface • An astronaut can experience three g's [=an amount of force equal to three times the normal force of gravity] during liftoff.

4 [count] *slang* : one thousand dollars : GRAND • a couple of g's

g *abbr* gram

G — used as a special mark to indicate that people of all ages may see a particular movie in a movie theater • The movie is rated *G*. — compare NC-17, PG, PG-13, R, X; see also G-RATED

GA *abbr* Georgia

¹**gab** /'gæb/ *verb* **gabs; gabbed; gab-bing** [*no obj*] *informal* : to talk a lot in an informal way usually about things that are not important or serious • They stayed up late *gabbing* (away) on the phone. • *gabbing* about the weather
— **gab-ber** *noun, pl -bers* [*count*] • talk radio *gabbers*

²**gab** *noun* [*noncount*] *informal* : informal talk • a steady stream of *gab* ✧ A person with (US) *the gift of gab* or Brit *the gift of the gab* is someone who talks a lot or who is good at talking to people. • a salesman with *the gift of gab*

gab-ar-dine /'gæbəˌdiːn/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a smooth, stiff type of cloth that is often used for suits • a jacket made of *gabardine* — often used before another noun • a *gabardine* suit/coat

gab-ble /'gæbəl/ *verb* **gab-bles; gab-bled; gab-bling** /'gæblɪŋ/ [*no obj*] *chiefly Brit* : to talk quickly and in a way that is difficult to understand • I could hear my aunts *gab-bling* [=babbling] in the kitchen.

— **gabble** *noun* [*noncount*] I could hear the *gabble* of my aunts in the kitchen. [*singular*] a *gabble* of voices

gab-by /'gæbi/ *adj* **gab-bi-er; -est** *informal* : talking a lot : very talkative • a *gabby* talk show host

gab-fest /'gæbˌfest/ *noun, pl -fests* [*count*] *US, informal*

1 : a long conversation • a *gabfest* between friends

2 : a gathering for people to talk • the group's annual *gabfest*

ga-ble /'geɪbəl/ *noun, pl ga-bles* [*count*] : a section of a building's outside wall that is shaped like a triangle and that is formed by two sections of the roof sloping down — see picture at HOUSE

— **ga-bled** /'geɪbəld/ *adj* • *gabled* houses [=houses that have gables] • a *gabled* roof [=a roof that forms a gable or gables]

gad /'gæd/ *verb* **gads; gad-ded; gad-ding**

gad about/around [*phrasal verb*] *gad about/around or gad about/around (somewhere)* : to move or travel without a plan or purpose • He spent several months *gadding about* Europe after college.

gad-a-bout /'gædəˌbaʊt/ *noun, pl -bouts* [*count*] *sometimes disapproving* : a person who goes to many places and social events for pleasure • a wealthy young *gadabout*

gad-fly /'gædˌflaɪ/ *noun, pl -flies* [*count*] : someone who annoys people by being very critical • a political *gadfly* [=a person who criticizes politicians, political decisions, etc.]

gad-get /'gædʒət/ *noun, pl -gets* [*count*] : a small, useful device • a clever *gadget* • The kitchen is equipped with all the latest *gadgets*. • cell phones, pagers, and other *gadgets*

gad-get-ry /'gædʒətri/ *noun* [*noncount*] : small, useful devices • The kitchen is equipped with the latest *gadgetry*. [=gadgets] • electronic *gadgetry* • (*disapproving*) newfangled *gadgetry* [=new gadgets that are difficult to use, understand, etc.]

Gael-ic /'geɪlɪk, 'gælɪk/ *adj*

1 : of or relating to the Celtic people of Scotland and Ireland • *Gaelic* politicians/folklore

2 : of or relating to the Celtic language of Scotland and Ireland • *Gaelic* idioms

— **Gaelic** *noun* [*noncount*] • The poems are written in *Gaelic*.

gaff /'gæf/ *noun, pl gaffs* [*count*]

1 : a spear or hook used for lifting heavy fish

2 : a pole that supports the top of a sail on some sailboats

3 *Brit slang* : someone's home • Why not come round to my *gaff* for a few drinks?

blow the gaff *Brit slang* : to reveal a secret especially in a public way — usually + *on* • The report *blows the gaff on* a series of illegal actions by the government.

gaffe /'gæf/ *noun, pl gaffes* [*count*] : a mistake made in a social situation • He realized that he had committed/made an awful/embarrassing *gaffe* when he mispronounced her name. • a verbal/diplomatic *gaffe*

gaf-fer /'gæfə/ *noun, pl -fers* [*count*] : a person who is in charge of the lights that are used when making a movie, television show, etc.

¹**gag** /'gæg/ *verb* **gags; gagged; gag-ging**

1 [+ *obj*] : to put something (such as a piece of cloth) into or over a person's mouth in order to prevent that person from speaking, calling for help, etc. • The hostages were *bound and gagged* [=their hands and feet were tied and their mouths were gagged]

2 [+ *obj*] : to prevent (someone) from speaking freely or expressing opinions • The government is trying to *gag* the press.

3 [*no obj*] **a** : to vomit or feel as if you are about to vomit : to feel as if what is in your stomach is going to come up into your mouth • The smell (almost) made me *gag*. — often + *on* • She was *gagging on* the fumes. [=the fumes were causing her to gag] **b** : to be unable to breathe because something is stuck in your throat : *CHOKE* — often + *on* • He *gagged on* a hot dog.

²**gag** *noun, pl gags* [*count*]

1 **a** : something said or done to make people laugh : *JOKE* • The movie relies on simpleminded *gags* for laughs. • a typical sitcom *gag* • (*chiefly Brit*) The comedian told a few *gags*. — sometimes used before another noun • a *gag* line ✧ A *running gag* is a joke that is repeated many times in slightly different ways. • Her fake news reports were a *running gag* on the show. ✧ A *sight gag* is a joke that does not involve speaking. • The movie is full of outrageous *sight gags*. **b** *chiefly US* : something done as a playful trick : *PRANK* • They hid his clothes as a *gag*.

2 : something (such as a piece of cloth) that is put into or over someone's mouth in order to prevent speech • They tied up the hostages and put *gags* in their mouths.

3 : something done to prevent people from speaking freely or expressing opinions • The government is trying to put a *gag* on the press. — see also GAG ORDER, GAG RULE

ga-ga /'gaːˌgaː/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] *informal*

1 : extremely enthusiastic about or interested in something or someone • I can't understand how anyone could be so *gaga* over/about golf. • She's *gaga* over her boss's nephew. [=she's very attracted to her boss's nephew] — often used after *go* • She's *gone gaga* over her boss's nephew. • Critics have *gone gaga* over the movie.

2 : crazy or foolish • He thinks that most artists are at least a little bit *gaga*.

gage *variant spelling of GAUGE*

gag-gle /'gægəl/ *noun, pl gag-gles* [*count*]

1 : a group of geese : a flock of geese

2 : a group of people • a noisy *gaggle* of photographers/reporters/tourists

gag order *noun, pl ~ -ders* [*count*] *chiefly US, law* : an order by a judge or court saying that the people involved in a legal case cannot talk about the case or anything related to it in public • The judge has issued a *gag order*. — called also (*Brit*) *gagging order*

gag rule *noun, pl ~ rules* [*count*] *US* : a rule saying that people are not allowed to speak freely or express their opinions about a particular subject • The law prohibits insurance companies from imposing *gag rules* that limit communication between doctors and their patients.

gai-ety /'geɪti/ *noun* [*noncount*] *old-fashioned* : a happy and lively quality • The party had none of the *gaiety* we've seen in past years. • the *gaiety* of the carnival

gai-ly /'geɪli/ *adv* [*more ~; most ~*] *old-fashioned*

1 : in a happy and lively way • chatting/playing/laughing *gai-ly*

2 : in a bright and colorful way • *gaily* dressed crowds • a *gai-ly* painted vase • a *gaily* colored poster

¹**gain** /'geɪn/ *verb* **gains; gained; gain-ing**

1 [+ *obj*] **a** : to get (something wanted or valued) • They stand to *gain* an advantage over their competitors by getting an early start. • What do you hope to *gain* from/by this? • *gain* control of/over the territory • Investigators are trying to *gain* access to the group's financial records. • We were unable to *gain* admission/entrance/entry to the club. • We need to *gain* a better understanding of the problem. • They had nothing to lose and everything to *gain*. • He first *gained* attention/recognition/fame as a young writer. • Her theories are slowly *gaining* acceptance. • She's *gaining* confidence in herself. [=she is becoming more confident] • I took the job to *gain* experience. **b** : to win (something) in a competition, battle, etc. • He is still hoping to *gain* the party's nomination. • *gain* a victory **c** : to gradually get (something) or more of (something) as time passes • He *gained* 40 pounds over five years, and then lost it all in two. • *gain* weight • The baby is quickly *gaining* strength in her legs.

2 [+ *obj*] : to cause (someone) to have (something) • His recent behavior has *gained* [=earned] him a reputation for stubbornness. • Her hard work *gained* her their respect. [=she has gained their respect through hard work; they respect her now because of her hard work]

3 **a** : to increase in (something) [+ *obj*] This event *gains* pop-

ularity [=becomes more popular] each year. • The plane was *gaining* altitude. • Some of the stocks are *gaining* value, while others are losing value. [*no obj*] Some of the stocks are *gain-ing*, while others are losing. — usually + *in* • This event *gains in* popularity each year. • The stocks are *gaining in* value. **b** [*+ obj*] : to increase in value by (a specified amount) • The stocks *gained* three percent last month. **c** [*no obj*] : to increase in value when compared to something else • The dollar *gained* against the pound last month.

4 [*no obj*] : to get an advantage • The company hopes to *gain* [=profit] from the new regulations.

5 [*+ obj*] *American football* : to move the ball (a specified distance) down the field • They *gained* five yards on the last play.

6 *of a clock or watch* : to show a time that is later than the correct time : to run fast [*no obj*] The clock *gains* by less than a second a year. [*+ obj*] The clock *gains* less than a second a year.

7 [*+ obj*] *formal* : to arrive at (a place) especially after much effort • The tired swimmer *gained* the shore at last.

gain a/the jump on see ²JUMP

gain ground see ¹GROUND

gain on [*phrasal verb*] *gain on* (someone or something) : to come nearer to (someone or something that is ahead of you in a race or competition) • She was still leading at the halfway point, but the other runners were *gaining on* her.

gain time : to cause something to be delayed so that more time is available to do what is needed • His lawyers are delaying the trial to *gain time* to prepare their defense.

— **gain-er** *noun, pl -ers* [*count*] • a stock that was one of the year's biggest *gainers* [=one of the stocks that increased the most in value]

²**gain** *noun, pl gains*

1 [*count*] : something wanted or valued that is gotten : something that is gained • ill-gotten *gains* [=money and other valuable things gotten through dishonest methods] especially : money gotten through some activity or process : PROFIT • financial/stock-market *gains* • economic *gains* — see also CAPITAL GAIN

2 [*noncount*] : something that is helpful : advantage or benefit • He acted only for his own personal/political *gain*. [=he acted only to benefit himself]

3 : an increase in amount, size, or number [*count*] a *gain* in weight • impressive *gains* [=improvements] in performance • They hope to make big *gains* in Congress in the coming election. [=they hope that many more members of their party will be elected to Congress] [*noncount*] The medication can cause nausea and weight *gain*.

4 [*count*] *American football* : the distance the ball is moved down the field during a play • They picked up a five-yard *gain* on first down.

no pain, no gain also no gain without pain informal — used to say that it is necessary to suffer or work hard in order to succeed or make progress

gain-ful /ˈɡeɪnfəl/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] : paying money • people seeking *gainful* [=paid] employment • a *gainful* occupation • *gainful* activity

— **gain-ful-ly** *adv* • *gainfully* employed

gain-say /ˌɡeɪnˈseɪ/ *verb* **gain-says** /ˌɡeɪnˈseɪz, ˌɡeɪnˈsez/; **gain-said** /ˌɡeɪnˈseɪd, ˌɡeɪnˈsed/; **gain-say-ing** [*+ obj*] *formal* : to deny or disagree with (something) : to show or say that (something) is not true — used in negative statements • There is no *gainsaying* such evidence. [=the truth of such evidence cannot be denied]

gait /ɡeɪt/ *noun, pl gaits* [*count*] : a particular way of walking • He has an awkward *gait*. • an easy/unsteady *gait*

gai-ter /ˈɡeɪtər/ *noun, pl -ters* [*count*] : a cloth or leather covering worn over the lower part of the leg especially to keep the legs and ankles dry when hiking — usually plural • a pair of *gaiters*

gal /ɡæl/ *noun, pl gals* [*count*] chiefly US, *informal* : a girl or woman • She's a fun *gal*. • I want to see all you guys and *gals* out on the dance floor! • I've grown rather fond of the old *gal*.

gal. *abbr* gallon

ga-la /ˈɡeɪlə, Brit ˈɡɑːlə/ *noun, pl -las* [*count*] : a public party or celebration • a grand *gala* celebrating the town's centennial — often used before another noun • a *gala* event/affair/celebration

gal-axy /ˈɡæləksi/ *noun, pl -ax-ies*

1 *astronomy* **a** [*count*] : any one of the very large groups of stars that make up the universe • the formation of *galaxies* •

a giant/spiral *galaxy* **b** *the Galaxy* : the galaxy in which we live : MILKY WAY

2 [*count*] : a large group of important or well-known people or things • The event was attended by a *galaxy* of artists.

— **ga-lac-tic** /ɡəˈlæktɪk/ *adj, astronomy* • *galactic* objects

gale /ˈɡeɪl/ *noun, pl gales* [*count*]

1 : a very strong wind • The boat was damaged in a strong *gale*. • The winds approached *gale* force. • *gale-force* winds

2 : a sudden occurrence of laughter, tears, etc. • The audience erupted in *gales* of laughter. • a *gale* of laughter/tears

¹**gall** /ˈɡɑːl/ *noun* [*noncount*] : extreme confidence expressed in a way that is impolite : NERVE • I can't believe she just said that to me. What *gall*! — often used in the phrase *have the gall* • He *had the gall* to think that he could replace her. • I can't believe she *had the* (unmitigated) *gall* to ask for another day off.

²**gall** *verb* **galls; galled; gall-ing** [*+ obj*] : to make (someone) feel annoyed or angry • It *galls* me that such a small group of people can have so much power. — see also GALLING

gal-lant *adj* [*more ~; most ~*]

1 /ˈɡælənt/ : showing courage : very brave • The defenders of the fort made a *gallant* stand. • a *gallant* knight • They failed to reach the summit, but they made a *gallant* attempt.

2 /ˈɡælənt/ : large and impressive • a *gallant* ship

3 /ɡəˈlənt, ɡəˈlɑːnt/ : having or showing politeness and respect for women • He greeted her with a *gallant* bow. • He offered her his seat in a *gallant* gesture.

— **gal-lant-ly** *adv* • The troops marched *gallantly* into battle. • He *gallantly* offered her his seat.

gal-lant-ry /ˈɡæləntri/ *noun* [*noncount*]

1 : very brave behavior : COURAGE • He was awarded several medals for *gallantry* [=heroism, valor] in battle. • I so admire the *gallantry* [=spirit, courage] with which she fought the disease.

2 : polite attention shown by a man to a woman • Many women were charmed by his old-fashioned *gallantry*.

gal-blad-der /ˈɡɑːl,blædə/ *noun, pl -ders* [*count*] *medical* : the organ in the body in which bile from the liver is stored — see picture at HUMAN

gal-le-on /ˈɡæliən/ *noun, pl -ons* [*count*] : a large sailing ship used especially by the Spanish in the 1500s and 1600s

gal-lery /ˈɡæləri/ *noun, pl -ler-ies* [*count*]

1 a : a room or building in which people look at paintings, sculptures, etc. • an art *gallery* • the National *Gallery* **b** : a business that sells paintings, sculptures, etc. • She owns a *gal-lery* downtown.

2 : a group or collection of people or things • The movie features a *gallery* of weird characters. — see also ROGUES' GAL-LERY

3 a : the highest section of seats in a theater **b** : the people sitting in the gallery **c** : the people who are watching a tennis or golf match

play to the gallery : to do things that you think will be popular among many people instead of doing what you think is right • a governor who refuses to *play to the gallery*

— see also SHOOTING GALLERY

gal-ley /ˈɡæli/ *noun, pl -leys* [*count*]

1 : the kitchen of a ship or airplane

2 : a long, low ship that was moved by oars and sails and that was used in ancient times by the Egyptians, Greeks, and others • a slave *galley* [=a galley rowed by slaves]

Gal-lic /ˈɡælik/ *adj* : of or relating to France or French people • a *Gallic* [=French] pop star; especially : typical of French people • our host's *Gallic* charm

gall-ing /ˈɡɑːlɪŋ/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] : causing someone to feel angry or annoyed • Their refusal to meet with me was extremely *galling*. [=annoying] • This is a *galling* defeat.

gal-li-vant /ˈɡælə,vənt/ *verb -vants; -vant-ed; -vant-ing* [*no obj*] somewhat *informal* + often *disapproving* : to go or travel to many different places for pleasure • They've been *gallivanting* all over town. • He's been *gallivanting* around the country when he ought to be looking for a job.

gal-lon /ˈɡælən/ *noun, pl -lons* [*count*]

1 US : a unit of liquid measurement equal to four U.S. quarts or 3.785 liters

2 Brit : a unit of liquid measurement equal to four British quarts or 4.546 liters

¹**gal-lop** /ˈɡæləp/ *noun, pl -lops*

1 : the way a horse or similar animal moves when it is running fast and all four of its feet leave the ground at the same time — often used after *at* [*noncount*] The horse was *at full gallop*. [*singular*] He mounted his horse and took off *at a*



gallop. — sometimes used figuratively • The course covers early American history *at a gallop*. [=very quickly; in a short amount of time]

2 [count] : a ride or run at a gallop • We went for a *gallop* through the countryside. — sometimes used figuratively • The course begins with a quick *gallop* through early American history. — compare ¹CANTER, ²TROT

²gallop *verb* -lops; -loped; -lop-ing

1 *a* [no obj] of a horse or similar animal : to run very fast : to run at a gallop • The horse *galloped* toward us. *b* [no obj] : to ride on a galloping horse • He mounted his horse and *galloped* off to sound the alarm. *c* [+ obj] : to make (a horse) gallop • She *galloped* her horse toward us.

2 [no obj] : to run or move quickly • I grabbed my books and *galloped* out the door. • The program *gallops* through early American history.

gal·lop·ing /'gæləpɪŋ/ *adj.*, always used before a noun : quickly developing or increasing • *galloping* inflation

gal·lows /'gæləʊz/ *noun*, *pl* -lows [count] : a structure on which a criminal who has been sentenced to death is killed by being hanged • He was sentenced to death on the *gallows*. • She was *sent to the gallows* [=she was sentenced to death]

gallows *humor noun* [noncount] : humor that relates to very serious or frightening things (such as death and illness)

gall·stone /'gɑ:lstəʊn/ *noun*, *pl* -stones [count] *medical* : a hard object like a small stone that sometimes forms in the gallbladder and that can cause great pain

ga·loot /gə'lʊt/ *noun*, *pl* -loots [count] *US slang* : a man or boy; *especially* : one who is foolish or awkward • You big *ga-loot*! • a clumsy *galoot*

ga·lore /gə'lɔə/ *adj.*, always used after a noun, *informal* : in large numbers or amounts • The store promises *bargains galore* [=promises that there will be many bargains] during its weekend sale.

ga·losh·es /gə'lɔ:ʃəz/ *noun* [plural]

1 *old-fashioned* : tall rubber shoes that are worn over other shoes in wet weather to keep your feet dry — compare RUBBERS

2 : rubber boots worn in wet weather to keep the feet dry

ga·lumph /gə'lʌmf/ *verb* -lumphs; -lumphed; -lumph-ing [no obj] *informal* : to move in a loud and clumsy way • I could hear him *galumphing* around in the attic.

gal·van·ic /gæl'vænɪk/ *adj*

1 *technical* : relating to or producing a direct current of electricity • a *galvanic* cell • *galvanic* corrosion

2 [more ~; most ~] : causing people to feel or react strongly • a *galvanic* performance/performer • Her performance had a *galvanic* effect on the audience.

gal·va·nize *also* *Brit gal·va·nise* /'gælvənaɪz/ *verb* -niz-es; -nized; -niz-ing [+ obj]

1 *a* : to cause (people) to become so excited or concerned about an issue, idea, etc., that they want to do something about it • an issue that *galvanized* the public (to take action)

b : to cause (a force that is capable of causing change) to become active • The group is hoping to *galvanize* public opinion against the proposed law. • The Web site has *galvanized* support for the project.

2 *technical* : to cover (steel or iron) with a layer of zinc to prevent it from rusting • a factory where steel is *galvanized*

— *galvanized adj* • *galvanized* nails • *galvanized* steel

gam·bit /'gæmbət/ *noun*, *pl* -bits [count]

1 : a planned series of moves at the beginning of a game of chess • A gambit usually involves losing a piece, such as a pawn, in order to gain an advantage later in the game.

2 : something done or said in order to gain an advantage or to produce a desired result • a conversational *gambit* • Their *opening gambit* [=their first move] in the negotiations was to demand a wage hike.

¹gam·ble /'gæmbəl/ *verb* gam·bles; gam·bled; gam·bling

1 [no obj] : to play a game in which you can win or lose money or possessions : to bet money or other valuable things • I like to *gamble*. • He's been drinking and *gambling* heavily. • *gambling* at cards — often + *on* • She likes to *gamble on* football games.

2 [+ obj] *a* : to risk losing (an amount of money) in a game or bet • He would often *gamble* hundreds of dollars on a hand of poker. *b* : to risk losing (something valuable or important) in order to do or achieve something • She *gambed* [=risked] everything she owned to start the business. — often + *on* • The company is *gambling* [=betting, risking] everything on this strategy.

3 : to do something that could have the good result that you want or a bad result that you cannot control [no obj] The mayor is *gambling* with the city's future. • people who lost money *gambling* in the stock market — often + *on* • Many people are willing to *gamble on* the new treatment. [=are willing to try the new treatment because they hope it will help them] [+ obj] The mayor is *gambling* that the new policies will help rather than hurt the city.

gamble away [phrasal verb] *gamble away* (something) or *gamble* (something) away : to lose (something, such as money) by gambling • She *gambed away* her inheritance. • *gambling away* the city's future

— *gam·bler* /'gæmblər/ *noun*, *pl* -blers [count] • The casino attracts many wealthy *gamblers*. • a compulsive *gambler*

²gamble *noun*, *pl* gambles [count] : something that could produce a desired result or a bad or unpleasant result : RISK • Starting her own business was a *gamble*, but it paid off. • She thought about starting her own business, but she decided it was too much of a *gamble*. • He was *taking a* (big) *gamble* [=doing something that could produce a (very) bad or unpleasant result] • Many people are willing to *take a gamble* on the new treatment. [=to try the new treatment]

gambling *noun* [noncount] : the practice or activity of betting money : the practice of risking money in a game or bet • He was arrested for illegal *gambling*. • *legalized gambling* • *compulsive gambling* — often used before another noun • a *gambling* casino • a *gambling* resort • She has a *gambling* problem. • a *gambling* game

gam·bol /'gæmbəl/ *verb* -bols; *US -boled or Brit -bolled*; *US -bol-ing or Brit -bol-ling* [no obj] : to run or jump in a lively way • lambs *gamboling* in the meadow

— *gambol noun*, *pl* -bols [count] • a playful *gambol*

¹game /'geɪm/ *noun*, *pl* games

1 [count] *a* : a physical or mental activity or contest that has rules and that people do for pleasure • a card *game* • party *games* [=activities people do at parties for pleasure] • word *games* [=games or puzzles that involve words] • computer *games* • poker and other gambling *games* • Baseball is my favorite *game*. [=sport] *b* : a particular occurrence of a game • Do you want to play a *game* (of tennis/cards)? • She scored a goal to tie the *game*. • They won/lost the *game*. • We played a few *games* of chess. • That was a good *game*! *c* : one of the games that are part of a larger contest (such as a tennis match) • She won the first two *games*, but lost the set and the match. — see also BALL GAME, BOARD GAME, FUN AND GAMES, GUESSING GAME, PARLOR GAME, PERFECT GAME, RETURN GAME, SHELL GAME, VIDEO GAME, *game of chance* at ¹CHANCE, *game of skill* at SKILL

2 *games* [plural] *a* : playful activities • children playing at their *games* *b* or *Games* : an organized series of athletic contests; *specifically* : the Olympics • Let the *Games* begin.

3 *a* [singular] : the way someone plays in a sport • They are known to play a very rough *game*. • She has a strong all-around *game*. • She needs to improve her *game* if she wants to win the championship. • Champions can raise/lift their *game* [=can play better] when they're in danger of losing. *b*

[count] : a skill that is used in playing a particular game or sport • a football team with a strong running/passing *game*

4 [count] *a* : an activity that is being compared to a game or contest • He's a loser in the *game* of love. [=he is not successful in romantic relationships] • the *game* of life • They're playing a dangerous *game* by refusing to negotiate. • He's trying to *beat them at their own game* [=he's trying to gain an advantage over them by using the same methods that they use] • the *mating game* [=the effort to find a sexual partner] — see also WAITING GAME, WAR GAME, *the name of the game* at ¹NAME *b* : a type of work : a business or profession • She's spent the last 30 years in the newspaper *game*. • the money *game* • the *fight game* [=professional boxing] — see also WAR GAME

5 [count] : something that is not meant to be taken seriously • Politics for her is just a *game*. • Was our entire relationship just a *game* to you?

6 [count] : a usually dishonest or unfair plan for doing something • I've seen through your little *game* and I know what you're really after! • What's his *game*? [=what is his real reason for doing the things he is doing?] • To *give the game away* is to make a secret plan or activity known. • We can't let him know anything about it. He's too likely to *give the game away*. • If *the game is up*, a dishonest plan or activity has been discovered and will no longer be allowed to continue. • Okay, *the game is up*. [=the jig is up] We know you forged the letters.

7 [*noncount*] : animals that are hunted • *wild game* • *small game* — often used before another noun • a *game* bird/fish [=a bird or fish that may be legally hunted or caught] • a *game preserve* [=an area of land in which hunting and fishing are carefully controlled] • a *game warden* [=a person who makes sure that hunting and fishing laws are obeyed] — often used figuratively • The police aren't interested in these small-time drug dealers; they're after much bigger *game*. — see also **BIG GAME**

ahead of the game : in a position or situation in which you are likely to succeed, win, etc. • The company has stayed *ahead of the game* by meeting new government standards before they go into effect.

early/late in the game : at an early/late time in a game or sport • She scored a goal *early in the game*. [=near the beginning of the game] — often used figuratively • It's too *late in the game* to change the date of the meeting. [=it's no longer reasonable to change the date; the meeting is too soon for the date to be changed] • She got into the computer industry *early in the game*. [=when the industry was new]

got game ✧ In informal U.S. English, someone who has *got game* is very good at playing a particular game or sport, such as basketball.

head/mind games : actions that are meant to confuse or upset someone in order to get an advantage • I couldn't handle the *head games* that came with the job anymore. • She's known for playing *mind games* with her opponents.

on the game *Brit, informal* : working as a prostitute • I didn't know she was *on the game*.

on/off your game ✧ If you are *on your game*, you are playing a sport or game well; if you are *off your game*, you are playing poorly. • She's really *on her game* tonight. [=she's playing very well] • Sorry I missed that shot. I'm *off my game* today. [=I'm not playing as well as I usually do] These phrases are also used figuratively. • He seemed a little *off his game* during the sales presentation this morning.

play games **1** : to treat someone in a dishonest or unfair way in order to get an advantage • Stop *playing games* (with me) and tell me what really happened! • I'm trying to be honest with you. I'm not interested in *playing games*. **2** : to behave in a way that is not serious • Let's stop *playing games* and get down to business.

the only game in town : the only available, desirable, or valuable thing • For serious home cooks, this stove is *the only game in town*. [=it is the only stove that serious home cooks should want to have] • Our company is no longer *the only game in town*. [=we now have competition; another company/business is doing what we do]

2game *adj gam·er; -est*

1 : willing or ready to do something • “Do you feel like going to the movies tonight?” “Sure, I'm *game*.” • They were *game* for anything. = They were *game* to try anything.

2 : showing a willingness to work hard, keep trying, etc. : showing determination • They remained *game* [=determined] to the end. • She lost despite a *game* effort.

— **game·ly** *adv* [more ~; most ~] • She smiled *gamely* for the camera.

game ball *noun, pl ~ balls* [*count*] *US* : a ball that is given to a player or coach who did something impressive to help win a game in American football, basketball, etc.

game hen *noun, pl ~ hens* [*count*] : a young, small hen used especially for roasting

game-keep·er /'geɪm,ki:pə/ *noun, pl -ers* [*count*] : a person who is in charge of the breeding and protection of animals that are hunted on private land

game plan *noun, pl ~ plans* [*count*]

1 : a plan for playing a game (such as American football or soccer)

2 : a plan for doing or achieving something • The governor is developing a *game plan* to lure businesses to the region.

game point *noun, pl ~ points* [*count*] *sports* : a situation in tennis or another game in which the player who wins the next point will win the game; *also* : the point itself — compare **MATCH POINT**

gam·er /'geɪmə/ *noun, pl -ers* [*count*] *US*

1 : a person who plays games and especially video or computer games • *video gamers*

2 *informal* : a person who is game; *especially* : an athlete who tries very hard to win games, competitions, etc. • He's a real *gamer*.

game show *noun, pl ~ shows* [*count*] : a television program in which people try to win prizes in a game • He was a

contestant on a *game show*. = He was a *game-show* contestant.

games·man·ship /'geɪmzmənʃɪp/ *noun* [*noncount*] *usually disapproving*

1 : the practice of winning a game or contest by doing things that seem unfair but that are not actually against the rules • They *blur the line between gamesmanship* and cheating.

2 : the clever use of skills or tricks to succeed or do something • *corporate/political gamesmanship*

gam·ete /'gæ,mɪt/ *noun, pl -etes* [*count*] *technical* : one of the cells that join together to begin making a person or other creature

gamey *variant spelling of GAMY*

ga·mine /gæ'mi:n/ *noun, pl -mines* [*count*] : an attractive and usually thin and small woman or girl who often shows a playful desire to cause trouble • a movie about a French *gamine*

— **gamine** *adj* • She was girlish and *gamine*.

gam·ing /'geɪmɪŋ/ *noun* [*noncount*]

1 : the activity of playing computer games • He does a lot of *gaming online*.

2 : the act or activity of gambling • *casino gaming*

gam·ma /'gæmə/ *noun, pl -mas* [*count*] : the third letter of the Greek alphabet — Γ or γ

gamma rays *noun* [*plural*] : powerful invisible rays that are sent out from some radioactive substances — called also *gamma radiation*

gam·mon /'gæmən/ *noun* [*noncount*] *Brit* : smoked or salted meat from the side or leg of a pig • a *gammon* steak

gam·ut /'gæmət/ *noun* [*singular*] : a range or series of related things • She experienced the full *gamut* of human emotions. • Her emotions *ran the gamut* from joy to despair. [=she felt emotions ranging from joy to despair]

gamy or **gam·ey** /'geɪmi/ *adj gam·i·er; -est* : having the flavor of meat from wild animals especially when it is slightly spoiled • *gamy* meat • The deer tasted *gamy*.

— **gam·i·ness** /'geɪmɪnəs/ *noun* [*noncount*]

1gan·der /'gændə/ *noun, pl -ders* [*count*] : a male goose

what's good for the goose is good for the gander see ¹GOOSE

— compare ²GANDER

2gander *noun* [*singular*] *informal* : a look at something • I'd like to stop by and *take/have a gander* at your new car. — compare ¹GANDER

1gang /'gæŋ/ *noun, pl gangs* [*count*]

1 : a group of criminals • a *gang* of drug dealers • a *gang* of thieves — see also **CHAIN GANG**

2 : a group of young people who do illegal things together and who often fight against other gangs • *street gangs* • He is in a *gang*. • He was shot by a member of a rival *gang*. • *gang* violence

3 *informal* : a group of people who are friends and who do things together • The *gang's* all here. • the *gang* at the office

2gang *verb gangs; ganged; gang·ing*

gang up [*phrasal verb*] *informal* : to form a group to attack, oppose, or criticize someone — usually + *on* • His classmates *ganged up on* him and beat him up pretty badly. — sometimes + *against* • Everyone *ganged up against* her.

gang bang *noun, pl ~ bangs* [*count*] *informal + impolite* : an occurrence in which several men have sex with the same woman one after another

gang·bust·ers /'gæŋ,bastəz/ *noun*

like gangbusters *US, informal* **1** : very well or successfully • The team got off to a slow start, but recently they have been coming on *like gangbusters*. [=they have been doing very well] **2** : very quickly • The company has been growing *like gangbusters*.

gang·land /'gæŋ,lænd/ *noun* [*singular*] : the violent world of organized crime — usually used before another noun • a *gangland* shooting

gan·gling /'gæŋɡlɪŋ/ *adj* [more ~; most ~] *chiefly Brit* : **GANGLY** • a *gangling* teenager

gan·gli·on /'gæŋɡljən/ *noun, pl -glia* /-gliə/ *also -gli·ons* [*count*] *medical* : a mass of nerve cells

gan·gly /'gæŋɡli/ *adj gan·gli·er; -est*

1 : tall, thin, and awkward • a *gangly* teenager

2 : long and thin • *gangly* legs

gang·plank /'gæŋ,plæŋk/ *noun, pl -planks* [*count*] : a board or other structure that people walk on to get on or off a ship

gang rape *noun, pl ~ rapes* [*count*] : a crime in which one woman is raped by several men one after another



– **gang-rape** *verb* -rape; -raped; -raping [+ *obj*]

gan-grene /'gæŋ,ɡri:n/ *noun* [noncount] *medical* : the decay of flesh that occurs in a part of the body that no longer has blood flowing to it • When *gangrene* set in, the soldier's leg had to be amputated.

– **gan-gre-nous** /'gæŋɡrənəs/ *adj* • a *gangrenous* foot

gang-sta /'gæŋstə/ *noun*, *pl* -stas [count] *US, informal*

1 : a member of a street gang

2 : a person who performs gangsta rap music

gangsta rap *noun* [noncount] : a type of rap music with lyrics about the violence and drug use of street gangs

– **gangsta rapper** *noun*, *pl* ~ -pers [count]

gang-ster /'gæŋstə/ *noun*, *pl* -sters [count] : a member of a group of violent criminals

gang-way /'gæŋ,weɪ/ *noun*, *pl* -ways

1 [count] : GANGPLANK

2 [count] *Brit* : a passage between sections of seats in a theater, airplane, etc. : AISLE

3 — used to tell people in a crowd to move aside so that someone can pass through • “Gangway!” the man shouted as he pushed his way through the crowd.

gan-ja /'gɑːndʒə/ *noun* [noncount] *slang* : MARIJUANA

gan-net /'gæŋnət/ *noun*, *pl* gan-nets also gannet [count] : a large ocean bird that eats fish

gantlet *variant spelling of* ¹GAUNTLET

gaol, gaol-bird, gaol-break, gaol-er *Brit spellings of* JAIL, JAILBIRD, JAILBREAK, JAILER

gap /'gæp/ *noun*, *pl* gaps [count]

1 *a* : a space between two people or things • The child had a *gap* between her two front teeth. • The *gap* between the lead runner and the rest of the field continued to widen. *b* : a hole or space where something is missing • The sheep got through a *gap* in the fence.

2 : a missing part • There are unexplained *gaps* in his story. • The class filled in the *gaps* in my knowledge of biology.

3 : a part or period in which nothing happens • She had taken several years off to raise a family, so there was a large *gap* in her work history.

4 : a difference between two people, groups, or things — often + *between* • There is a widening *gap between* the rich and the poor. • We hope to *close the gap between* well-funded suburban schools and the struggling schools in poorer communities. • His work *bridges the gap between* popular fiction and serious literature. [=his work has qualities of both popular fiction and serious literature] — see also CREDIBILITY GAP, GENERATION GAP

gape /'geɪp/ *verb* *gapes; gaped; gap-ing* [no *obj*]

1 : to open widely • Her mouth *gaped open*.

2 : to look at someone or something with your mouth open in surprise or wonder — often + *at* • The crowd *gaped at* the princess as she passed by. • What are you *gaping at*? *synonyms* see ¹GAZE

gap-ing /'geɪpɪŋ/ *adj* : wide open : very large • a *gaping wound* • a *gaping hole*

gap-toothed /'gæp,tuːθt/ *adj* : having a large space between two teeth • a *gap-toothed* child/smile/grin

gap year *noun*, *pl* ~ years [count] : a year that you spend traveling, working, etc., before continuing your studies • She decided to take a *gap year* between high school and college.

¹**gar-age** /gə'raːʒ, *Brit* 'gærɪdʒ/ *noun*, *pl* -rag-es [count]

1 : a building or part of a building in which a car, truck, etc., is kept • a house with a two-car *garage* — see picture at HOUSE; see also PARKING GARAGE

2 : a shop where vehicles are repaired • My car was making a strange noise, so I brought it to the *garage*.

²**garage** *verb* -rages; -raged; -rag-ing [+ *obj*] : to put or keep (a car, truck, etc.) in a garage • He *garaged* the car for the winter.

garage band *noun*, *pl* ~ bands [count] : a group of people who play rock music together and typically practice in a garage

garage sale *noun*, *pl* ~ sales [count] *chiefly US* : a sale of used furniture, clothing, etc., held at the seller's home — called also (US) *tag sale*, (US) *yard sale*

¹**garb** /'gɑːb/ *noun* [noncount] : a particular style or type of clothing • traditional academic *garb* • dressed in ceremonial *garb* • prison *garb*

²**garb** *verb* garbs; garbed; garb-ing [+ *obj*] : to dress (someone) in a particular type of clothing — usually used as (be) *garbed* • He was *garbed in* a black robe. [=he was wearing a black robe]

gar-bage /'gɑːbɪdʒ/ *noun* [noncount]

¹ *chiefly US* *a* : things that are no longer useful or wanted and that have been thrown out : TRASH • The park was littered with *garbage*. • Please take out the *garbage*. • Raccoons were going through the *garbage*. — often used to refer specifically to food waste that is being thrown out • the smell of rotting *garbage* *b* : a container where people put things that are being thrown out • Throw the can in the *garbage*.

² *informal* : something that is worthless, unimportant, or of poor quality • Maybe you should read a book instead of watching that *garbage* [=rubbish] on TV.

³ *informal* : foolish or untrue words or ideas : NONSENSE • If you ask me, what he said is a bunch/load of *garbage*.

garbage can *noun*, *pl* ~ cans [count] *US* : a container for garbage — called also (US) *garbage pail*, (Brit) *waste bin*

garbage disposal *noun*, *pl* ~ -als [count] *US* : a device in a kitchen sink that grinds up food waste so it can be washed down the drain — called also (Brit) *waste disposal unit*

gar-bage-man /'gɑːbɪdʒ,mæn/ *noun*, *pl* -men [count] *US* : a person who collects and removes garbage — called also (US) *garbage collector*, (Brit) *binman*, (Brit) *dustman*

garbage truck *noun*, *pl* ~ trucks [count] *US* : a truck used to take away garbage that people put outside their houses, buildings, etc., in bags or cans — called also (Brit) *dustcart*; see picture at TRUCK

gar-ban-zo /gɑː'bɑːn,zou, *Brit* gɑː'bæn,zəʊ/ *noun*, *pl* -zos [count] *US* : CHICKPEA

garbanzo bean *noun*, *pl* ~ beans [count] *US* : CHICKPEA

gar-ble /'gɑːbəl/ *verb* *gar-bles; gar-bled; gar-bling* [+ *obj*] : to cause (a word, name, message, etc.) to be unclear or confusing • He was so nervous he *garbled* her name [=he said her name incorrectly] when he introduced her.

– **garbled** *adj* • We could not understand him because of his *garbled* speech. • a *garbled* phone message

¹**gar-den** /'gɑːdn/ *noun*, *pl* -dens

1 [count] *US* : an area of ground where plants (such as flowers or vegetables) are grown • We planted a small *garden* in our backyard. • a vegetable/rose *garden* • a *garden hose*/cart/rake/path • a *garden party* [=a party that takes place in a garden or in a large yard with gardens] — see color picture on page C6

2 [count] *Brit* : ¹YARD 1 • They were sitting out in the back *garden*.

3 [count] : a public area with many plants and trees • a botanical/public *garden* — often plural • Kew *Gardens*

4 [count] *US* : a large stadium or building for sports or entertainment — used in names • They went to the hockey game at Madison Square *Garden*.

5 *Gardens* [plural] *chiefly Brit* — used in street names • Bel-size *Gardens*

common-or-garden see ¹COMMON

lead someone down/up the garden path see ¹LEAD

²**garden** *verb* -dens; -dened; -den-ing [no *obj*] : to work in a garden : to take care of the plants in a garden • He likes to *garden*.

– **gar-den-er** /'gɑːdənə/ *noun*, *pl* -ers [count] • She's a talented *gardener*. • He hired a *gardener* to take care of his estate. — **gardening** *noun* [noncount] • Her hobbies include bicycling and *gardening*.

garden chair *noun*, *pl* ~ chairs [count] *Brit* : LAWN CHAIR

gar-de-nia /gɑː'diːnjə/ *noun*, *pl* -nias [count] : a large white or yellowish flower that has a pleasant smell

Garden of Eden *noun* [singular] : EDEN 1

garden-variety *adj*, always used before a noun, *US* : not unusual : ordinary or common • He doesn't have the flu—just a *garden-variety* cold. • The movie is a *garden-variety* thriller.

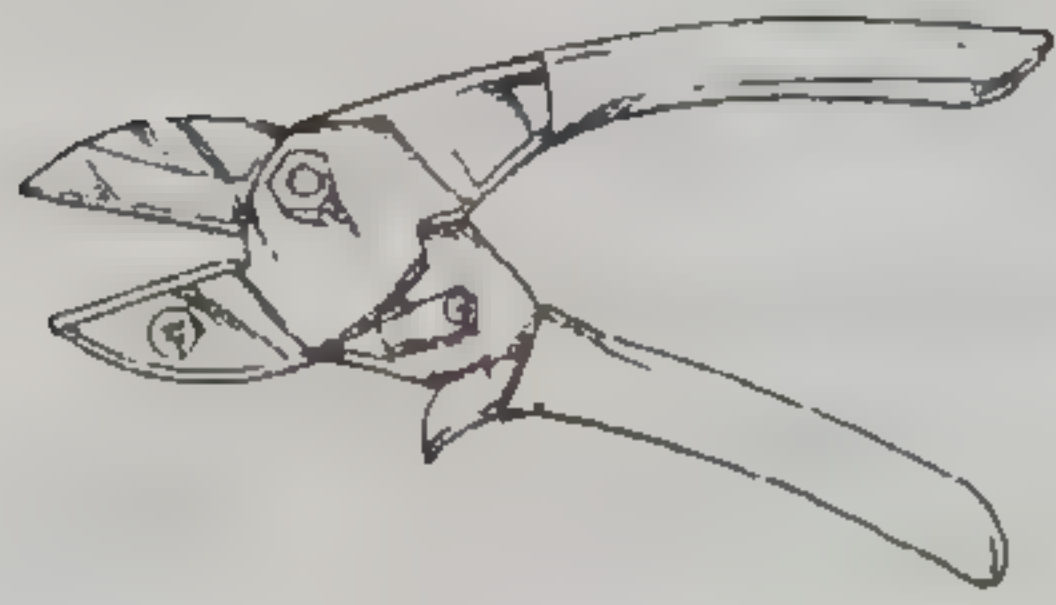
gar-gan-tuan /gɑː'gæntʃəwən/ *adj* [more ~; most ~] : very large in size or amount : GIGANTIC • a creature of *gargantuan* proportions • a *gargantuan* appetite

¹**gar-gle** /'gɑːgəl/ *verb* *gar-gles; gar-gled; gar-gling* : to clean your throat and mouth with a liquid that you move around in your throat and then spit out [no *obj*] He *gargled* with salt water. • She *gargles* every morning. [+ *obj*] He *gargled* the salt water, then spit it out.

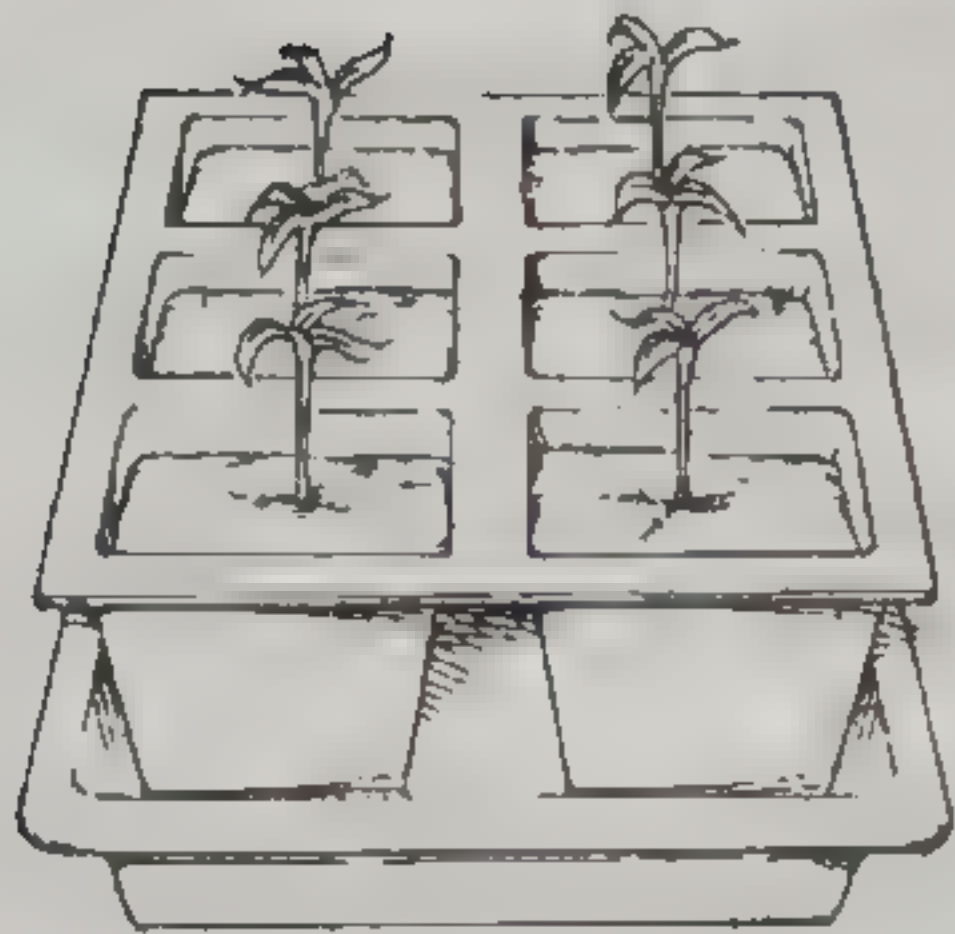
²**gargle** *noun*, *pl* gargles : a liquid used for gargling [count] a medicinal *gargle* used for sore throats [noncount] (Brit) treating a sore throat with *gargle*

gar-goyle /'gɑːgojəl/ *noun*, *pl* -goyles [count] : a strange or ugly human or animal figure that sticks out from the roof of a building (such as a church) ♦ Gargoyles are stone sculp-

gardening



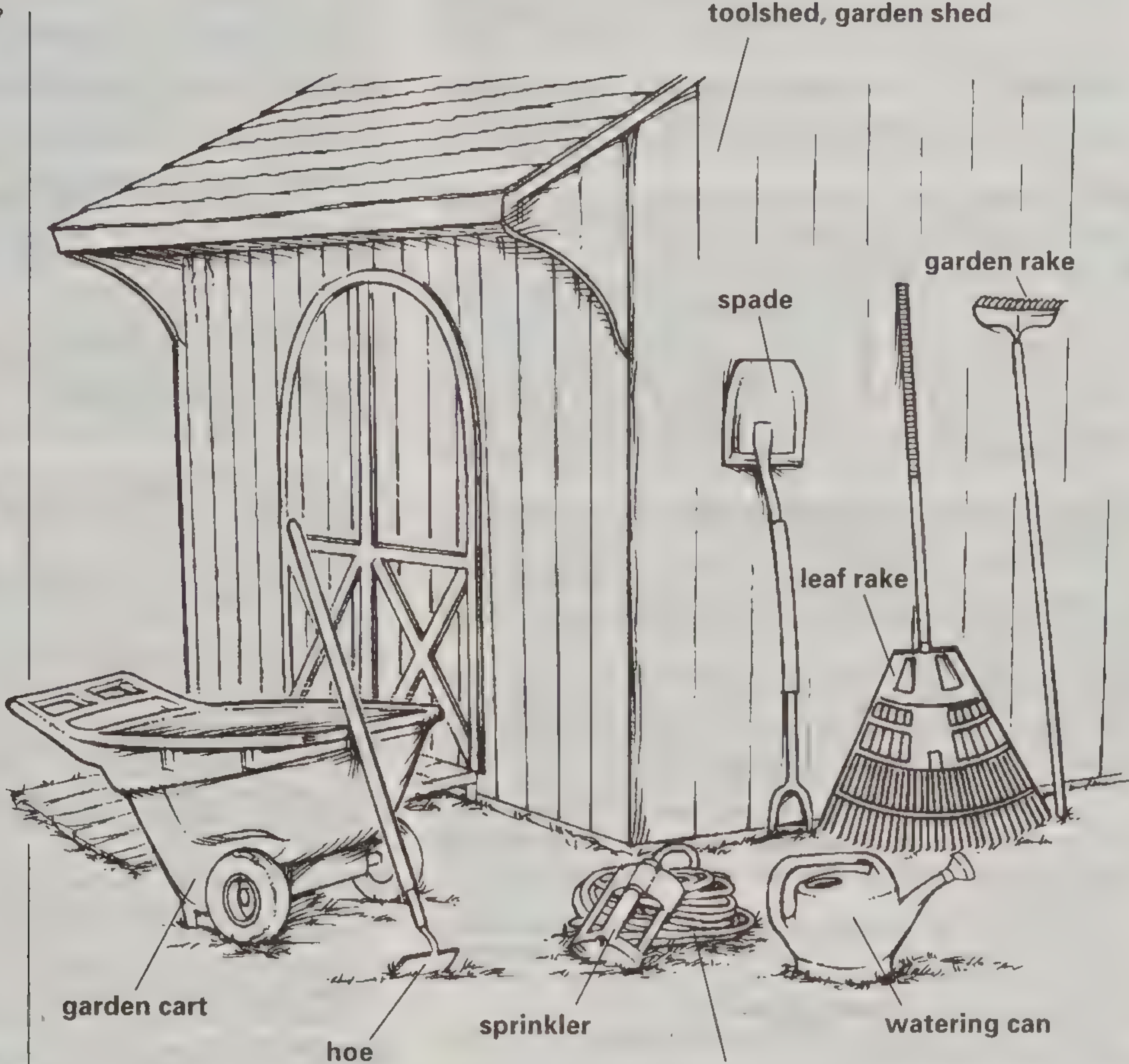
pruning shears (US),
pruners (US),
secateurs (Brit)



seedling
tray



trowel



toolshed, garden shed

garden rake

spade

leaf rake

garden cart

hoe

sprinkler

hose, hosepipe (Brit)

watering can

tures that are used to cause rainwater to flow away from the sides of a building.

gar-ish /'gerɪʃ/ *adj* [more ~; most ~] : too bright or colorful • a *garish* [=gaudy] dress covered with sequins • *garish* neon signs

– **gar-ish-ly** *adv* • a *garishly* decorated room • *garishly* dressed – **gar-ish-ness** *noun* [noncount]

gar-land /'gælənd/ *noun*, *pl* -lands [count] : a ring or rope that is made of leaves, flowers, or some other material and that is used as a decoration • They placed a *garland* of flowers around her neck.

garland *verb* -lands; -land-ed; -land-ing [+ *obj*] : to put a garland on (someone or something) — usually used as (*be*) *garlanded* • The winner *was garlanded* with flowers. — often used figuratively • The book has *been garlanded* with praise. [=has received a lot of praise]

gar-lic /'gæɪlɪk/ *noun* [noncount] : a plant that is related to the onion and that has small sections (called cloves) which have a strong taste and smell and are used for flavoring foods • The recipe calls for two cloves of *garlic*, minced. • a pasta dish flavored with basil and *garlic* • *garlic bread* [=bread toasted and flavored with butter and garlic] • a *garlic press* [=a tool used to crush garlic] — see color picture on page C4

– **gar-licky** /'gæɪlɪki/ *adj* [more ~; most ~] • a strong, *garlicky* dish • *garlicky* breath

gar-ment /'gæmənt/ *noun*, *pl* -ments [count] somewhat formal : a piece of clothing • expensive silk *garments*

garment bag *noun*, *pl* ~ bags [count] : a bag that folds in half and is used to carry suits and dresses when you are traveling

gar-ner /'gænə/ *verb* -ners; -nered; -ner-ing [+ *obj*] formal

1 : to collect or gather (something) • She *garnered* more evidence to support her theory. • The senator has spent much time *garnering* financial support for his upcoming campaign.
2 : to get or receive (something wanted or valued) • The novel has *garnered* much praise and several awards. • The band has *garnered* [=gained] a large following.

gar-net /'gænət/ *noun*, *pl* -nets

1 [count] : a dark red stone that is used in jewelry — see color picture on page C11
2 [noncount] : a dark red color

garni see BOUQUET GARNI

gar-nish /'gænɪʃ/ *verb* -nish-es; -nished; -nish-ing [+ *obj*] : to put something on (food) as a decoration — usually + *with* • *Garnish* the cake with chocolate curls. • The fish was *garnished* with parsley leaves.; *also* : to be added as a decoration to (food) • Chocolate curls *garnished* the cake.

garnish *noun*, *pl* -nishes [count, noncount] : something (such as small pieces of fruit, chopped herbs, etc.) that is put on food as a decoration

garotte variant spelling of GARROTTE

gar-ret /'gerət/ *noun*, *pl* -rets [count] : a usually small and unpleasant room or space area just below the roof of a building • an artist's *garret* [=a garret where a struggling artist lives in poverty]

gar-ri-son /'gerəsən/ *noun*, *pl* -sons [count]

1 : a military camp, fort, or base • troops defending the *gar-rison* • a *garrison* town
2 : a group of soldiers who are living at a garrison • a *garri-son* of 5,000 men

garrison *verb* -sons; -soned; -son-ing [+ *obj*]

1 : to send soldiers to (a place) in order to defend it • *garrison* a town
2 : to send (soldiers) to live in and defend a place — often used as (*be*) *garrisoned* • The men *were garrisoned* in town.

gar-rote or **ga-rotte** /gə'ra:t/ *noun*, *pl* -rotes or -rottes [count] : a device (such as a piece of wire with a handle at each end) that is used to strangle someone

garrote or **garotte** *verb* -rotes or -rottes; -rot-ed or -rott-ed; -rot-ing or -rott-ing [+ *obj*] : to strangle (someone) with a garrote • The victim was *garroted*.

gar-ru-lous /'gerələs/ *adj* [more ~; most ~] : tending to talk a lot : very talkative • He became more *garrulous* after drinking a couple of beers.

gar-ter /'gætə/ *noun*, *pl* -ters [count]

1 : an elastic band of material that is worn around the leg to hold up a stocking or sock

2 US : a piece of material that hangs down from a woman's underwear and that is used to hold up a stocking — called also (*Brit*) *suspender*

garter belt *noun*, *pl* ~ **belts** [*count*] *US* : a piece of underwear that is worn around a woman's waist and hips and that has garters (sense 2) attached to it — called also (*Brit*) *suspender belt*

garter snake *noun*, *pl* ~ **snakes** [*count*] : a harmless American snake that has stripes along its back

1 gas /'gæs/ *noun*, *pl* **gas-es** also **gas-ses**

1 a : a substance (such as oxygen or hydrogen) that is like air and has no fixed shape [*count*] Carbon monoxide is a poisonous *gas*. • a mixture of *gases* [*noncount*] clouds of *gas* — see also LAUGHING GAS, MUSTARD GAS, NATURAL GAS, NERVE GAS, TEAR GAS **b** [*noncount*] : a gas or mixture of gases that is burned as a fuel • We heat our house with *gas*. • Turn up the *gas*. • Do you have a *gas* stove or an electric one?

2 [*noncount*] *US* : gas in your stomach and intestines that causes pain or discomfort • Certain foods give me *gas*. [= (*Brit*) *wind*] • stomach *gas* • intestinal *gas* ♦ To *pass gas* is to release intestinal gas from your anus. • I accidentally *passed gas* [= (less politely) *farted*] during the meeting. It was so embarrassing!

3 US a [*noncount*] : GASOLINE • We need to stop for *gas*. [= (*Brit*) *petrol*] • high *gas* prices • The car gets good *gas* mileage. • The car almost ran out of *gas*. — sometimes used figuratively • The pitcher *ran out of gas* [= became tired] in the seventh inning. **b the gas informal** : the accelerator pedal of a vehicle • He was driving with one foot on *the gas* and one foot on the brake. ♦ If you *step on the gas* or *hit the gas*, you suddenly press down on the accelerator to drive at a higher speed.

4 [*singular*] *US, old-fashioned slang* : a very enjoyable or funny person, event, etc. • The party was a *gas*. • Your uncle cracks me up. What a *gas*!

2 gas *verb* **gasses; gassed; gas-sing**

1 [+ *obj*] : to poison or kill (someone) with gas • soldiers *gassed* on the battlefield

2 US : to put gasoline in (a car, truck, etc.) [+ *obj*] We stopped to *gas* the car. — usually + *up* • The car is all *gassed up*. [*no obj*] — + *up* • We *gassed up* before getting on the highway.

gas-bag /'gæs,bæg/ *noun*, *pl* **-bags** [*count*] *US, informal* : a person who talks too much : WINDBAG

gas chamber *noun*, *pl* ~ **-bers** [*count*] : a room in which prisoners are killed by poisonous gas

gas-eous /'gæfəs/ *adj* : having the form of gas • *gaseous* fuels • an odorless, *gaseous* element • a substance changing from a liquid to a *gaseous* state

gas-guz-zler /'gæs'gʌzlə/ *noun*, *pl* **-zlers** [*count*] *US, informal* : a usually large vehicle that uses a lot of gasoline

— **gas-guz-zling** /'gæs'gʌzlɪŋ/ *adj*, always used before a *noun* • *gas-guzzling* SUVs

1 gash /'gæʃ/ *noun*, *pl* **gash-es** [*count*] : a long, deep cut • The dog had a bad *gash* in his leg. • The iceberg made a *gash* in the hull of the ship.

2 gash *verb* **gashes; gashed; gash-ing** [+ *obj*] : to make a long, deep cut in (something) • The knife slipped and *gashed* his finger.

gas-ket /'gæskət/ *noun*, *pl* **-kets** [*count*] : a piece of rubber or some other material that is used to make a tight seal between two parts that are joined together

blow a gasket **1** of a car, engine, etc. : to develop a very bad leak in a gasket **2 informal, of a person** : to become very angry • When the boss found out that the shipment was late, he *blew a gasket*.

gas-light /'gæs,laɪt/ *noun*, *pl* **-lights**

1 [*noncount*] : light made by burning gas (sense 1b) • streets illuminated by *gaslight*

2 [*count*] : a lamp that uses gas as fuel — called also *gas lamp*

— **gas-lit** /'gæs,lɪt/ *adj* • a *gaslit* street

gas mask *noun*, *pl* ~ **masks** [*count*] : a mask used to protect the face and lungs against poisonous gases

gas-o-hol /'gæsoʊ,ɦɑ:l/ *noun* [*noncount*] *technical* : a mixture of gasoline and ethanol that is used as a fuel for engines

gas-o-line /'gæsoʊ,li:n/ *noun* [*noncount*] *US* : a liquid made from petroleum and used especially as a fuel for engines — called also (*US*) *gas*, (*Brit*) *petrol*

gasp /'gæsp, *Brit* 'gɑ:sp/ *verb* **gasps; gasped; gasp-ing**

1 [*no obj*] **a** : to breathe in suddenly and loudly with your mouth open because of surprise, shock, or pain • Mom *gaped* in/with surprise at the sight of my sister's new haircut. • He *gaped* as he stepped into the icy water.

2 [*no obj*] : to breathe with difficulty : PANT • a dying man *gasping* for breath • She was *gasping* for air.

3 [+ *obj*] : to say (something) with quick, difficult breaths • He *gaped* (out) a plea for mercy. • "Have mercy!" he *gaped*.

— **gasp** *noun*, *pl* **gasps** [*count*] • My sister let out a *gasp* when I told her the happy news. — see also LAST-GASP

gas pedal *noun*, *pl* ~ **-als** [*count*] *US* : ACCELERATOR **1**

gas station *noun*, *pl* ~ **-tions** [*count*] *US* : a place where gasoline for vehicles is sold — called also *filling station*, *service station*, (*Brit*) *petrol station*

gas-sy /'gæsi/ *adj* **gas-si-er; -est**

1 : of or containing gas • a *gassy* odor • a *gassy* liquid [= a liquid that has many bubbles]

2 US : having gas in your stomach • He felt bloated and *gassy*.

3 informal : having or using many words but not saying things that are very important or interesting : LONG-WINDED • *gassy* prose

gas-tric /'gæstrɪk/ *adj*, *medical* : of, relating to, or located near the stomach • *gastric* ulcers • *gastric* problems caused by stress

gas-tri-tis /'gæ'straɪtəs/ *noun* [*noncount*] *medical* : a painful condition in which the inside surface of the stomach becomes inflamed

gas-tro-in-tes-ti-nal /,gæ'stroʊɪn'testənəl/ *adj*, *medical* : of or relating to both the stomach and the intestines • *gastrointestinal* disorders • the *gastrointestinal tract* [= the part of the digestive system that consists of the stomach and intestines]

gas-tron-o-my /'gæ'stra:nəmi/ *noun* [*noncount*] *formal* : the art or activity of cooking and eating fine food • books about wine tasting and *gastronomy*

— **gas-tro-nom-ic** /,gæ'strə'nɑ:mɪk/ also **gas-tro-nom-i-cal** /,gæ'strə'nɑ:mɪkəl/ *adj*, always used before a *noun* • a rare fish that's considered a *gastronomic* delicacy

gas-works /'gæs,wɜ:ks/ *noun*, *pl* **gasworks** [*count*] chiefly *Brit* : a factory for making gas from coal

gate /'geɪt/ *noun*, *pl* **gates** [*count*]

1 : a place in a wall or a fence that has a movable part which can be opened or closed like a door • The car drove through the *gate* and up the long driveway. • The prison *gates* are always guarded.; also : the movable part itself • He pushed the *gate* open. — see also PEARLY GATES, STARTING GATE

2 : a device that can be opened and closed to control the flow of water or other liquids • the canal *gates*

3 : an area at an airport where passengers arrive and leave • When she got off the plane, her mother was waiting for her at the *gate*. • Flight 213 is now boarding at *Gate* 6.

4 a : the number of people who buy tickets for a sports event • The game drew/attracted a large *gate*. **b** : the amount of money received from selling tickets to a sports event • A portion of the *gate* for today's game will be donated to charity.

gat-ed /'geɪtəd/ *adj*

1 : having a gate • a *gated* entrance

2 : having guarded or locked gates so that only some people are allowed to enter • They live in a *gated community*. [= a group of expensive homes that are surrounded by a gated wall or fence]

gate-house /'geɪt,haʊs/ *noun*, *pl* **-houses** [*count*] : a small building near a gate at the entrance of a park, large house, etc.

gate-keep-er /'geɪt,ki:pə/ *noun*, *pl* **-ers** [*count*] : a person who guards a gate • the palace *gatekeeper* — sometimes used figuratively • teachers who consider themselves the *gatekeepers* of knowledge

gate-way /'geɪt,weɪ/ *noun*, *pl* **-ways** [*count*] : an opening in a wall or fence that can be closed by a gate • Mourners slowly passed through the *gateway* of the cemetery. — often used figuratively • Studying is the *gateway* to success. • Make London your *gateway* to Europe!

gateway drug *noun*, *pl* ~ **drugs** [*count*] : a drug (such as alcohol or marijuana) that is thought to lead to the use of more dangerous drugs (such as cocaine or heroin)

1 gath-er /'gæðə/ *verb* **-ers; -ered; -er-ing**

1 [+ *obj*] **a** : to bring (things or people) together into a group • The children *gathered* their toys (together) and put them away. • Give me just a minute to *gather* my things and

then we can leave. • The coach *gathered* her players together. • She *gathered* her hair into a ponytail. **b** : to choose and collect (things) • We *gathered* (up) wood for the fire. • The child was *gathering* flowers to give to his mother. • She has been *gathering* poems (together) for/into a collection. **c** : to get or take (things) from different people or places and bring them together • The police are continuing to *gather* evidence relating to the crime. • Volunteers have been *gathering* contributions for the new library.

2 [*no obj*] : to come together to form a group • A crowd began to *gather* on the sidewalk. • The players *gathered* together to hear the coach's game plan. — often + *around* or *round* • Everyone *gathered around* him as he began to speak. • He asked us to *gather round*.

3 [+ *obj*] : to get more of (something, such as speed) gradually • The bicyclists *gathered* speed as they went downhill. • The campaign has begun to *gather momentum/strength*. [=has begun to be more popular and effective] — see also *gathering dust* at ¹DUST

4 [*no obj*] : to increase in amount or strength • Clouds had begun to *gather* overhead. • We hurried home in the *gathering* darkness. • the *gathering* storm • the *gathering* [=worsening] crisis

5 [+ *obj*] **a** : to prepare yourself to use (your courage, strength, etc.) in order to do something difficult • He *gathered* his courage and finally spoke up. • Despite her injury, she *gathered* her strength and was able to finish the race. **b** : to prepare (yourself, your thoughts, etc.) before doing something difficult • He paused to *gather himself* before stepping out onto the stage. • I barely had time to *gather my thoughts/wits* before replying.

6 *not used in progressive tenses* [+ *obj*] : to believe that something is probably true because of what you have heard or learned • I *gather* (from her comments) that she's read a great deal about this topic. = From what I (can) *gather*, she's read a great deal about this topic. • "She's read a great deal about this topic." "So I *gather*!"

7 [+ *obj*] : to pull (someone or something) close to your body • He *gathered* the child (up) in his arms. • She *gathered* her cloak around her before stepping outside.

8 [+ *obj*] *sewing* : to pull (cloth) along a line of stitches to form folds • I *gathered* the fabric to make small pleats.

— **gath·er·er** /'gæðəɾə/ *noun*, *pl* -ers [*count*] • a *gatherer* of data/information • hunters and *gatherers* [=people who gather food]

²**gather** *noun*, *pl* -ers [*count*] : a fold formed when cloth is pulled together — usually plural • a shirt with *gathers* at the shoulders

gath·er·ing /'gæðərɪŋ/ *noun*, *pl* -ings

1 [*count*] : an occasion when people come together as a group • I see my cousins only at occasional family *gatherings*. • dinner parties and other social *gatherings* • a *gathering* of political leaders

2 [*noncount*] : the act or process of gathering something • hunting and food *gathering* • the *gathering* of data

ga·tor /'geɪtə/ *noun*, *pl* -tors [*count*] *US, informal* : ALLIGATOR

GATT *abbr* General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade

gauche /'gouʃ/ *adj* **gauch·er; -est** [*also more ~; most ~*] : having or showing a lack of awareness about the proper way to behave : socially awkward • a *gauche* young man • He has *gauche* manners. • Would it be *gauche* of me to ask her how old she is?

— **gauche·ness** *noun* [*noncount*] *chiefly Brit* • the *gaucheness* of his manner

gau·cho /'gau,ʃou/ *noun*, *pl* -chos [*count*] : a cowboy in South America

gaudy /'gɑ:di/ *adj* **gaud·i·er; -est**

1 : too bright and heavily decorated • *gaudy* jewelry/colors • The showgirls wore *gaudy* costumes.

2 *informal* : very large or impressive • They bought the house for a *gaudy* sum. • (*disapproving*) He collected fancy cars and other *gaudy* symbols of wealth. • The team had a *gaudy* [=dazzling] 10–0 record at the start of the season.

— **gaud·i·ly** /'gɑ:dəli/ *adv* • *gaudily* dressed clowns • *gaudily* painted statues — **gaud·i·ness** /'gɑ:dɪnəs/ *noun* [*noncount*] • the *gaudiness* of the mansion

¹**gauge** *also US gage* /'geɪdʒ/ *noun*, *pl* **gaug·es** *also gag·es*

1 [*count*] : an instrument that is used for measuring something • a temperature/rain *gauge* • the fuel/gas *gauge*

2 [*count*] : something that can be used to measure or judge something else — usually singular; often + *of* • He does not

believe that these tests are an accurate *gauge of* intelligence. • Home sales provide a *gauge of* the state of the economy.

3 [*noncount*] : the distance between the rails of a railroad • a standard/broad/narrow *gauge* railroad

4 [*noncount*] : the thickness of something (such as a sheet of metal) or the diameter of wire or a screw • 20-*gauge* wire • heavy *gauge* aluminum

5 [*noncount*] : the size of a shotgun based on how big the inside of the barrel is • a 12-*gauge* shotgun

²**gauge** *also US gage verb gauges also gages; gauged also gaged; gaug·ing also gag·ing* [+ *obj*]

1 : to make a judgment about (something) • Home sales provide a useful way of *gauging* the overall state of the economy. • He accurately *gauged* the mood of the voters. • I was *gauging* her reaction to the news.

2 : to measure (something) exactly • instruments for *gauging* temperature and humidity

gaunt /'ga:nt/ *adj* **gaunt·er; -est**

1 : very thin usually because of illness or suffering • a small *gaunt* man • He left the hospital looking tired and *gaunt*.

2 *literary* : plain and unpleasant in appearance : desolate and gloomy • *gaunt* leafless trees • a *gaunt* factory on the edge of town

— **gaunt·ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

¹**gaunt·let** *also US gant·let* /'ga:ntlət/ *noun*, *pl* -lets [*count*]

: a situation in which someone is attacked, criticized, questioned, etc., by many people — usually used in the phrase *run the gauntlet* • Soldiers in the past were sometimes punished by being forced to *run the gauntlet*. [=to run between two rows of men who would hit them with clubs] • He had to *run the gauntlet* of reporters waiting outside the court.

— compare ²GAUNTLET

²**gauntlet** *noun*, *pl* -lets [*count*]

1 : a metal glove worn with a suit of armor by soldiers in the Middle Ages

2 : a long, heavy glove worn to protect the hand

pick/take up the gauntlet : to show that you are willing and ready to fight, argue, or compete with someone or to do something that is difficult but necessary : to accept or respond to a challenge • The time has come for Congress to *pick up the gauntlet* and do something about this problem.

throw down the gauntlet : to say or show that you are ready to fight, argue, or compete with someone : to challenge someone • The company *threw down the gauntlet* and told the union that this offer for a contract was final.

— compare ¹GAUNTLET

— **gaunt·let·ed** /'ga:ntlətəd/ *adj* • a *gauntleted* hand

gauze /'gɑ:z/ *noun* [*noncount*]

1 : a very thin cloth : cloth so thin that you can see through it • red *gauze* curtains

2 : loosely woven cotton that is used as a bandage • He wrapped the wound in *gauze*. • a *gauze* pad [=a small square of folded gauze]

gauzy /'gɑ:zi/ *adj* **gauz·i·er; -est**

1 : light and thin : made of or resembling gauze • *gauzy* curtains/dresses

2 *US* : not clear : HAZY • *gauzy* images • *gauzy* memories

gave *past tense of* ¹GIVE

gav·el /'gævəl/ *noun*, *pl* -els [*count*] : a small hammer that someone (such as a judge) bangs on a table to get people's attention in a meeting or in a court of law

gawk /'gɑ:k/ *verb* **gawks; gawked; gawk·ing** [*no obj*] *informal* : to stare at someone or something in a rude or stupid way • a crowd of *gawking* tourists — often + *at* • She just stood there *gawking at* the celebrities as they arrived for the ceremony. • Celebrities are used to being *gawked at*.

— **gawk·er** *noun*, *pl* -ers [*count*] • a crowd of *gawkers*

gawky /'gɑ:ki/ *adj* **gawk·i·er; -est** *informal* : awkward and clumsy • a tall, *gawky* teenager

— **gawk·i·ly** /'gɑ:kəli/ *adv* • He moves *gawkily*. — **gawk·i·ness** *noun* [*noncount*] • his teenage *gawkiness*

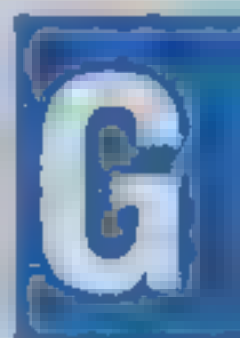
gawp /'gɑ:p/ *verb* **gawps; gawped; gawp·ing** [*no obj*] *chiefly Brit, informal* : to stare at someone or something in a rude or stupid way : GAWK

— **gawp·er** /'gɑ:pə/ *noun*, *pl* -ers [*count*]

¹**gay** /'geɪ/ *adj* **gay·er; -est** [*or more ~; most ~*]

1 **a** : sexually attracted to someone who is the same sex : HOMOSEXUAL • My uncle is *gay*. **b** *always used before a noun* : of, relating to, or used by homosexuals • the *gay* rights movement • The march celebrates *gay* pride. [=pride in being gay] • a *gay* bar

2 *old-fashioned* : happy and excited • *gay* and carefree chil-



dren : cheerful and lively • The band was playing a *gay* tune.

• a *gay* festival/reception

3 old-fashioned : very bright in color : **COLORFUL** • the *gay-est* of the spring flowers — see also **GAILY**

– **gay-ness** *noun* [noncount] • He is no longer trying to hide his *gayness*. [=homosexuality] • the *gayness* [= (more commonly) *gaiety*] of the colors

2 gay *noun, pl gays* [count] : a person and especially a man who is homosexual • a bar that is frequented by *gays* • *gays* and *lesbians*

1 gaze /'geɪz/ *verb, always followed by an adverb or preposition* **gaze-es; gazed; gaz-ing** [no obj] : to look at someone or something in a steady way and usually for a long time • He *gazed* out the window at the snow. • She *gazed* intently/longingly into his eyes.

synonyms **GAZE, GAPE, STARE, and GLARE** mean to look at something or someone for a long time. **GAZE** suggests looking steadily at something with feelings of interest, wonder, or admiration. • She was *gazing* at the moon. **GAPE** suggests looking in wonder or surprise with your mouth open. • tourists *gaping* at celebrities **STARE** suggests looking with your eyes open wide, often in a rude way. • Don't *stare* at him, it's not polite. **GLARE** suggests looking in an angry way. • The speaker *glared* at the people in the audience who were talking.

2 gaze *noun, pl gazes* [count] : a long and steady look • He fixed his *gaze* out the window. [=he gazed out the window] • She looked at him with a calm, steady *gaze*. • He *dropped/lifted his gaze* [=he looked down/up] • She calmly *met his gaze* [=looked back at him while he looked at her] — sometimes used figuratively • He has his *gaze* firmly fixed on the future. [=he is thinking about the future]

ga-ze-bo /gə'zi:bou/ *noun, pl -bos* [count] : a small building in a garden or park that is open on all sides

ga-zelle /gə'zel/ *noun, pl gazelles* also **ga-zelle** [count] : a small animal that is a kind of antelope and that is very graceful and fast

ga-zette /gə'zet/ *noun, pl -zettes* [count] : **NEWSPAPER** — usually used in the names of newspapers • The *Daily Gazette*

gaz-et-teer /gæzə'tiə/ *noun, pl -teers* [count] : a book or list that is arranged in alphabetical order and gives information about places

ga-zil-lion /gə'zɪljən/ *noun, pl -lions* [count] **US, informal** : a very large number • He made *gazillions* (of dollars) in real estate.

– **gazillion** *adj* • a *gazillion* years • He made a *gazillion* dollars in real estate.

gaz-pa-cho /gə'spɑ:tʃou/ *noun* [noncount] **chiefly US** : a spicy cold soup that is made with chopped vegetables (such as tomatoes, cucumbers, peppers, and onions)

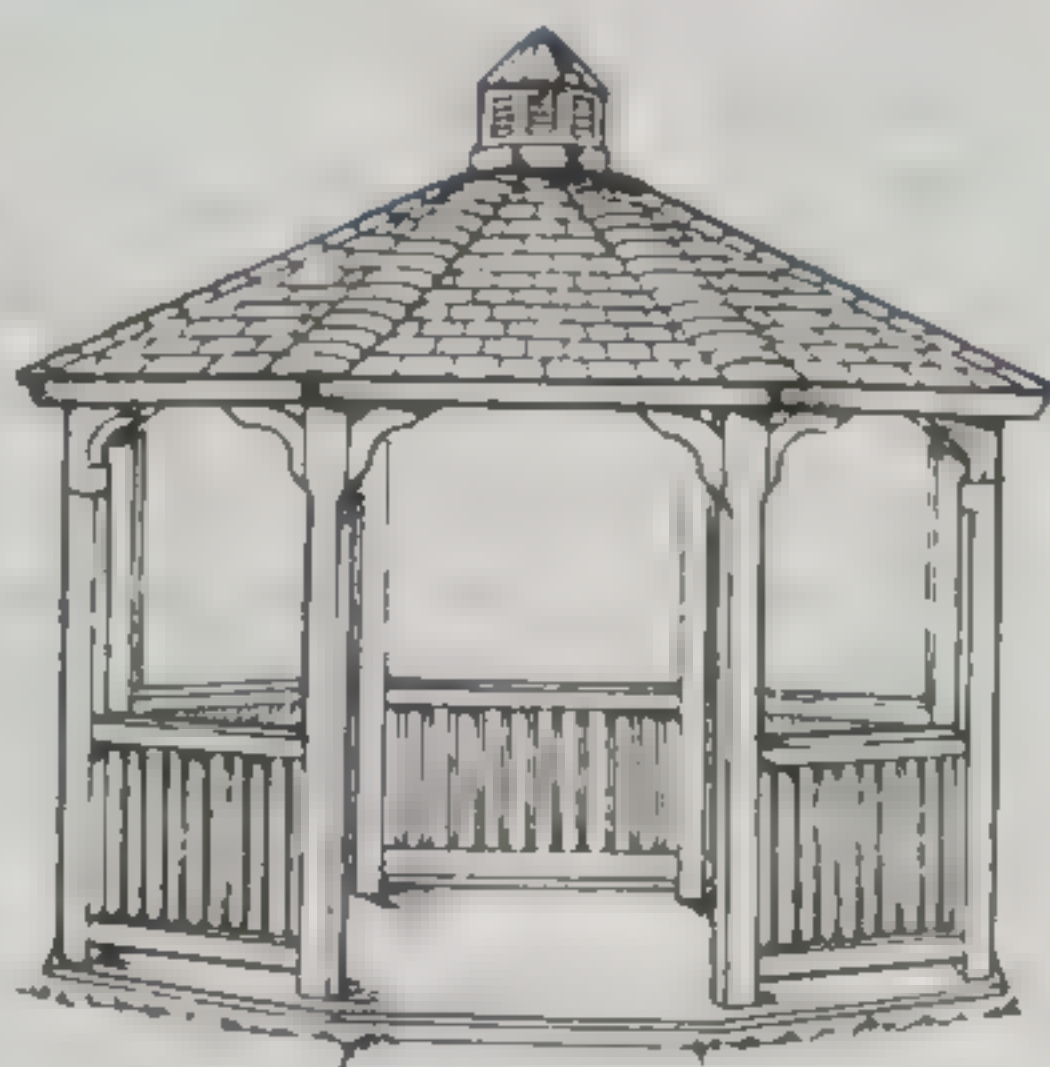
GB abbr 1 gigabyte 2 Great Britain

GDP abbr gross domestic product

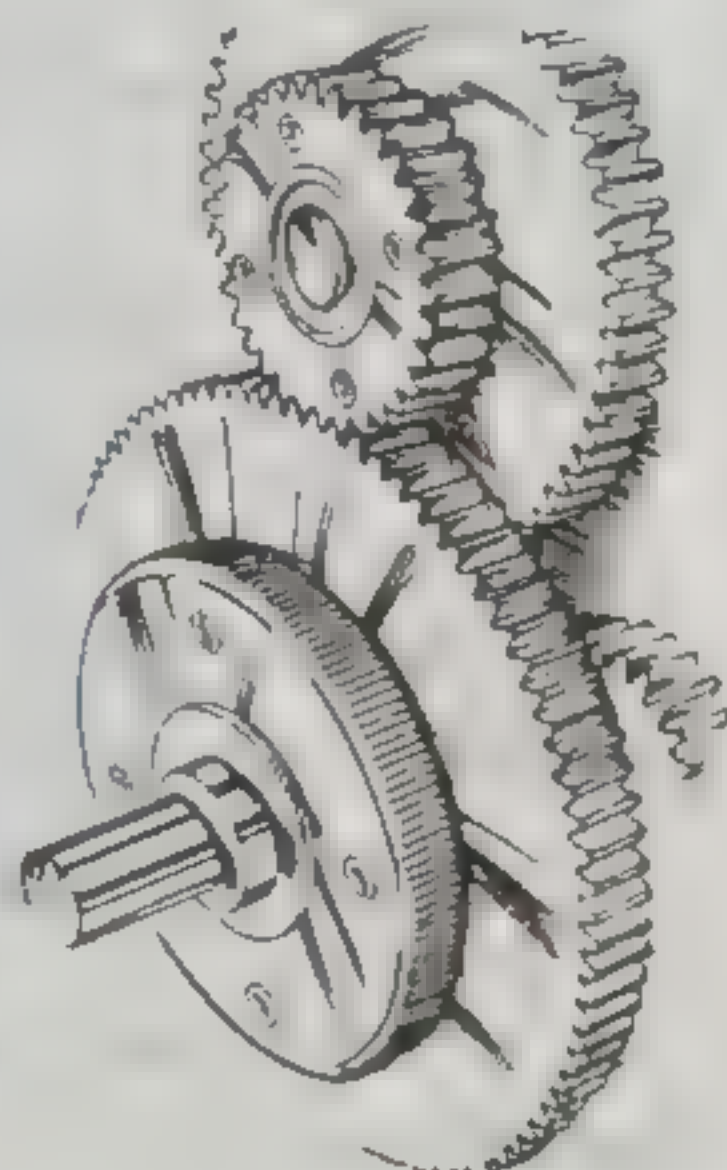
1 gear /'giə/ *noun, pl gears*

1 [noncount] **a** : supplies; tools, or clothes needed for a special purpose • fishing *gear* • I somehow managed to pack all my *gear* into one suitcase. • soldiers in full combat *gear* • wearing protective *gear* • rain *gear* [=waterproof clothes worn in the rain] — see also **FOOTGEAR, HEADGEAR, LANDING GEAR** **b informal** : **CLOTHES** • She wears trendy *gear*.

2 a [count] : a toothed wheel in a machine • a complicated arrangement of *gears* and shafts **b** : a part that connects the engine of a vehicle or the pedals of a bicycle to the wheels and controls the speed at which the wheels turn [count] a car with four forward *gears* [noncount] Halfway up the hill, my bike slipped out of *gear*. • He put the car *in/into gear* [=he moved the lever that controls the car's gears into the position that allows the car to begin moving] and drove away. • (US) She shifted into low/high *gear*. = (Brit) She changed into bottom/top *gear*. [=she changed to a gear that allows for a slower/faster rate of



gazebo



gears

speed] — see also **REVERSE GEAR**

change/shift/switch gears (US) or **Brit change gear** : to move from one level or area of activity to another • He once again *changed gears* in his career. • She's decided to *shift gears*, quit her job, and go back to school.

get in gear or get (something) in gear informal : to start working or doing something in a more energetic and effective way • We need to *get in gear* [=get going] if we want to finish this project on time. • She finally *got* her career *in gear*. [=finally started to be successful in her career] • (US, informal + impolite) He angrily told him to *get his ass in gear*. [=to get going, to start moving or doing something much more quickly]

in/into high gear see **HIGH GEAR**

2 gear *verb* **gears; geared; gear-ing** [+ obj] : to make (something) suitable for a particular use or type of person — usually used as (be) *geared* • The book *is geared* toward children. [=the book is intended to be used by children] • software *geared* to the needs of the first-time user • The program *is geared* for/to/toward a young audience. • The system *is geared* [=designed] to handle several tasks at once.

gear up [phrasal verb] **gear up or gear (someone) up or gear up (someone)** : to get ready or to cause (someone) to get ready for something or to do something • The team *is gearing up* for a comeback. • Manufacturers are *gearing up* to produce more merchandise. • The coach *is gearing up* the team for a comeback. • The team *is geared up* for a win.

gear-box /'giə:bɔ:ks/ *noun, pl -box-es* [count] : a box in a car, truck, etc., that contains the gears • a five-speed *gearbox* [= (more commonly) *transmission*]

gear-head /'giə,hed/ *noun, pl -heads* [count] **US, informal** : a person who is very interested in mechanical or technical things (such as cars or computers) • *gearheads* discussing hardware upgrades

gear-ing /'giəriŋ/ *noun* [noncount] **technical** : the parts that transfer motion from one part of a machine to another • a *gearing mechanism*

gear-shift /'giə,ʃɪft/ *noun, pl -shifts* [count] **US** : a lever or other device that is moved to change gears in a car, on a bicycle, etc. — called also (Brit) *gear lever*, (Brit) *gearstick*, (US) *shifter*; see pictures at **BICYCLE, CAR**; compare **STICK SHIFT**

gear-stick /'giə,stɪk/ *noun, pl -sticks* [count] **Brit** : **GEAR-SHIFT**

gecko /'gekoʊ/ *noun, pl geck-os* also **geck-oes** [count] : a small tropical lizard

GED /,ji:,i:'di:/ *noun, pl GEDs* [count] **US**

1 : a test that is taken by an adult who did not finish high school to show that the person being tested has as much knowledge of basic math, science, English, etc., as a high school graduate • I had to take the *GED* yesterday. • a *GED* test ♦ *GED* in this sense is an abbreviation of "General Educational Development."

2 : an official document that is given to a person who has taken and passed the *GED* • The job requires a high school diploma or *GED*. ♦ *GED* in this sense is an abbreviation of "general equivalency diploma."

gee /'dʒi:/ *interj, chiefly US* — used especially to show surprise, enthusiasm, or disappointment • *Gee*, that sounds like fun. • *Gee*, that's too bad.

gee-gee /'dʒi:,dʒi:/ *noun, pl -gees* [count] **Brit, informal** : **HORSE** — used especially by children or when referring informally to horse racing • have a bet on the *gee-gees*

geek /'gi:k/ *noun, pl geeks* [count] **chiefly US, informal**

1 : a person who is socially awkward and unpopular : a usually intelligent person who does not fit in with other people • He was a real *geek* in high school.

2 : a person who is very interested in and knows a lot about a particular field or activity • She's a computer *geek*.

– **geeky** /'gi:ki/ *adj* **geek-i-er; -est** • I was a *geeky* kid. – **geek-i-ness** *noun* [noncount] • I liked her in spite of her *geekiness*.

geese plural of **GOOSE**

gee whiz /,dʒi:'wɪz/ *interj, US, old-fashioned* — used espe-



gecko

cially to show surprise or enthusiasm • *Gee whiz*, I didn't expect to see you here!

gee-whiz /ˈdʒiːwɪz/ *adj*, always used before a noun, chiefly US

1 : very impressive or amazing • *gee-whiz* gadgets/technology

2 : showing or feeling excitement and wonder • *gee-whiz* enthusiasm

geez or **jeez** /ˈdʒiːz/ *interj*, informal — used to express surprise, anger, or annoyance • *Geez*, it's cold out here. • *Geez*, I didn't think the food would be this bad.

gee-zer /ˈgiːzə/ *noun*, *pl* -zers [count] informal

1 US : an old man • a group of old geezers playing cards

2 Brit : GUY, BLOKE • Some geezer asked me for a light.

Geiger counter /ˈgaɪɡə-/ *noun*, *pl* ~ -ers [count] : an instrument used for finding and measuring radioactivity

gei-sha /ˈgeɪʃə/ *noun*, *pl* **gei-shas** also **geisha** [count] : a Japanese girl who is trained to entertain men with singing, conversation, etc. — called also *geisha* girl

¹**gel** /ˈdʒel/ *noun*, *pl* **gels** [count, noncount] : a thick substance that is like jelly and that is used in various products • hair gels [=gels used for styling hair] • shower gel [=soap that is in a gel form]

²**gel** *verb* gels; gelled; gel-ling

1 [no obj] : to change into a gel : to change into a thick substance that is like jelly • The mixture will gel as it cools.

2 [no obj] : to become clear and definite : JELL • Our plans are finally starting to gel.

3 [+ obj] : to style (hair) with gel • She gelled her hair.

gel-a-tin (chiefly US) or chiefly Brit **gel-a-tine** /ˈdʒelətən/ *noun* [noncount]

1 : a clear substance that is made by boiling animal bones or tissues and that is used in making jelly

2 : a food made with gelatin • a fruity gelatin dessert

— **ge-lat-i-nous** /dʒəˈlætənəs/ *adj* [more ~; most ~] • a gelatinous mass • a gelatinous texture

geld /ˈɡeld/ *verb* gels; geld-ed; geld-ing [+ obj] : to remove the testicles of (a male animal and especially a horse or bull) • a gelded horse

geld-ing /ˈɡeldɪŋ/ *noun*, *pl* -ings [count] : a male horse that has had its testicles removed • a six-year-old gelding — compare STALLION

gem /ˈdʒem/ *noun*, *pl* **gems** [count]

1 : a valuable stone that has been cut and polished for use in jewelry — see color picture on page C11

2 : something that is admired for its beauty or excellence • The house is a gem of colonial architecture. • He pitched a gem of a game. • Her most recent novel is a real gem.

Gem-i-ni /ˈdʒeməni, ˈdʒemənaɪ/ *noun*, *pl* -nis

1 [noncount] : the third sign of the zodiac that comes between Taurus and Cancer and has a pair of twins as its symbol — see picture at ZODIAC

2 [count] : a person born under the sign of Gemini : a person born between May 21st and June 21st • His girlfriend is a Gemini.

gem-stone /ˈdʒem,stoun/ *noun*, *pl* -stones [count] : a stone that can be used in jewelry when it is cut and polished

Gen. *abbr* General • *Gen.* Smith

gen-darme /ˈʒɑːn,dɑːrm/ *noun*, *pl* -darmes [count] : a police officer; especially : a police officer in a country where French is spoken

gen-der /ˈdʒendə/ *noun*, *pl* -ders

1 [count] : the state of being male or female : SEX • Please state your name, birth date, and gender. • gender differences • gender-specific language [=words that refer only to men or only to women] • gender-neutral language [=words that do not refer to either sex but only to people in general]

2 *grammar* : one of the categories (masculine, feminine, and neuter) into which words (such as nouns, adjectives, and pronouns) are divided in many languages [noncount] The adjective and noun must agree in number and gender. [count] Some languages do not use genders.

gender-bending *noun* [noncount] : the act of dressing and behaving like a member of the opposite sex • a pop star famous for his gender-bending

— **gender bender** *noun*, *pl* ~ -ers [count] • He's known as a gender bender. — **gender-bending** *adj* • a gender-bending comedy • a gender-bending pop star

gene /ˈdʒiːn/ *noun*, *pl* **genes** [count] *biology* : a part of a cell that controls or influences the appearance, growth, etc., of a living thing • She inherited a good set of genes from her par-

ents. • dominant/recessive genes

ge-ne-al-o-gy /ˌdʒiːniˈɑːlədʒi, ˌdʒiːniˈælədʒi/ *noun*, *pl* -gies

1 [noncount] : the study of family history • an expert in genealogy

2 [count] : the history of a particular family showing how the different members of the family are related to each other • They've been researching their genealogies.

— **ge-ne-a-log-i-cal** /ˌdʒiːniəˈlɑːdʒɪkəl/ *adj* • genealogical relationships/history • a genealogical expert — **ge-ne-al-o-gist** /ˌdʒiːniˈɑːlədʒɪst, ˌdʒiːniˈælədʒɪst/ *noun*, *pl* -gists [count] • She's an expert genealogist.

gene pool *noun*, *pl* ~ pools [count] *biology* : all of the genes in a particular group of people or animals • the gene pool of a species

genera *plural of GENUS*

gen-er-al /ˈdʒenrəl/ *adj*

1 always used before a noun : of, relating to, or affecting all the people or things in a group • They have issued a general warning/order. • a general alarm : involving or including many or most people • The general mood here is optimistic. [=most people here are optimistic] • The general consensus is that we should go ahead. • It's a story with general interest. = It's a general-interest story. [=it is a story that will interest many or most people]

2 a [more ~; most ~] : relating to the main or major parts of something rather than the details : not specific • The witness was able to provide a very general description of the thief. • She began her talk with some general observations about the state of the industry. • The book provides a good general introduction to the subject. • My concerns are all general—nothing specific. • The details of the new plan are different, but it's based on the same general concept/idea. • My general impression was that things were going well. b always used before a noun — used to indicate that a description relates to an entire person or thing rather than a particular part • The building was in good general shape. • Her general [=overall] health is good.

3 always used before a noun : not exact : APPROXIMATE • They were found in the same general area. • I'm going in the general direction of the store.

4 always used before a noun : ordinary, normal, or usual • Their general practice in such cases is to offer a deal. = As a general rule they offer a deal in such cases. [=they usually/generally offer a deal in such cases]

5 : of the basic or usual kind : not special or specialized • a general hospital • a science book for the general reader [=the reader who is not a scientist] • a doctor practicing general medicine [=basic health care that is not specialized]

6 always used before a noun : of high rank : having wide authority or responsibility • a general manager • a general contractor [=a contractor who is in charge of a building project] — see also ATTORNEY GENERAL, INSPECTOR GENERAL

²**general** *noun*

in general 1 : in a general way — used to say that a statement describes your general feeling or opinion • In general, I like the way things have gone. 2 : as a whole • It had an impact not just on young people, but on people in general. [=on all or most people] 3 : in most cases : USUALLY • In general [=generally], it takes about a month for the shipment to arrive.

— compare ³GENERAL

³**general** *noun*, *pl* -als [count] : a military officer of very high rank — compare ²GENERAL

general admission *noun* [noncount] : a situation in which a customer pays a fee to get into an event (such as a concert or baseball game) but is not assigned to a specific seat • Reserved seating is \$20; general admission is \$10.

general delivery *noun* [noncount] US : a department in a post office that keeps a person's mail until that person comes to the post office to get it • The letter is addressed to general delivery. — called also (Brit) *poste restante*

general election *noun*, *pl* ~ -tions [count] : a regular election that involves voters and candidates throughout an entire country

gen-er-al-ist /ˈdʒenrəlɪst/ *noun*, *pl* -ists [count] : a person who knows something about a lot of subjects • The staff includes both generalists and specialists.

gen-er-al-i-ty /ˌdʒenəˈræləti/ *noun*, *pl* -ties *formal*

1 [count] : a statement that is not specific or detailed • He spoke in generalities as he discussed his plans for the future.

2 [noncount] : the quality or state of being general rather than specific or detailed • I noticed the generality of the lan-

G

guage he used in discussing his plans.

3 [noncount] *Brit* : the biggest part of a group : MAJORITY • The *generality* of the students [=most of the students] will go on to university.

gen-er-al-i-za-tion also *Brit* **gen-er-al-i-sa-tion** /ˌdʒenrəˈleɪʒən, *Brit* ˌdʒenrəˈlaɪzeɪʒən/ *noun*, *pl* -tions often disapproving

1 [count] : a general statement : a statement about a group of people or things that is based on only a few people or things in that group • He made several sweeping/broad *generalizations* about women.

2 [noncount] : the act or process of forming opinions that are based on a small amount of information • She was prone to *generalization*.

gen-er-al-ize also *Brit* **gen-er-al-ise** /ˌdʒenrəˈlaɪz/ *verb* -izes; -ized; -izing

1 [no obj] : to make a general statement or form a general opinion; *especially* : to state an opinion about a larger group that is based on a smaller number of people or things within that group • She tends to *generalize*. — often + *about* • She is always *generalizing about* men.

2 [+ obj] *formal* : to apply (something specific, such as a theory or rule) to larger group — often used as (*be*) *generalized* • The theory can *be generalized* to other branches of science as well.

generalized also *Brit* **generalised** *adj* [more ~; most ~] : not specific : not limited to a particular area, part, etc. • The patient has been experiencing *generalized* pain. • *generalized* anxiety

gen-er-al-ly /ˌdʒenrəˈli/ *adv*

1 [more ~; most ~] : in a general way : in a way that is not detailed or specific • He talked *generally* about his plans. • I had a *generally* good day.

2 : in most cases : USUALLY • *Generally* [=in general], his suggestions have been well-received. • It *generally* takes about a month for the shipment to arrive. • When stocks are up, bonds are *generally* down. • Writers *generally* oppose censorship. = *Generally* (speaking), writers oppose censorship.

3 : by or to most people • a *generally* used phrase • This town is *generally* regarded as a good place to raise kids.

general practitioner *noun*, *pl* ~ -ers [count] : a person (especially a doctor) whose work is not limited to a special area : a person who is not a specialist • Our family doctor is a *general practitioner*. — abbr. *G.P.*

general public *noun*

the general public : all the people of an area, country, etc. • The park is open to *the general public*.

general-purpose *adj*, *always used before a noun* : able to be used for many purposes : not limited to a single purpose • a *general-purpose* vehicle • *general-purpose* film — compare ALL-PURPOSE

general store *noun*, *pl* ~ stores [count] : a store usually in a small town that sells many different things including groceries

gen-er-ate /ˌdʒenəˈreɪt/ *verb* -ates; -at-ed; -at-ing [+ obj]

1 : to produce (something) or cause (something) to be produced • windmills used to *generate* electricity • *generate* heat • This business should *generate* a lot of revenue. • We hope to *generate* some new ideas at the meeting. • a computer-generated list [=a list that was made by a computer program]

2 : to be the cause of or reason for (something, such as interest or excitement) • His theories have *generated* a great deal of interest among other scientists. • Her comments have *generated* a good deal of excitement/controversy. • They have been unable to *generate* much support for their proposals.

— **gen-er-a-tive** /ˌdʒenrəˈtɪv/ *adj*, *technical* • *generative* power

gen-er-a-tion /ˌdʒenəˈreɪʃən/ *noun*, *pl* -tions

1 [count] **a** : a group of people born and living during the same time • She was worshipped by a *generation* of moviegoers. • He was a hero to *generations* of students. • We need to preserve these resources for future *generations*. • His books are popular among members of the younger/older *generation*. • (US) The current *generation* is changing the way things are done. = (*Brit*) The current *generation* are changing the way things are done. **b** : the people in a family born and living during the same time • That family has lived in the same house for four *generations*. • The house has been passed down in the family from *generation* to *generation*. • first- and second-*generation* immigrants [=people who immigrated and their children]

2 [count] : the average length of time between the birth of

parents and the birth of their children • She's a *generation* [=around 20–30 years] older than most of her colleagues. • He has held that position for a *generation*. • No one dreamed that such things would be possible a *generation* ago.

3 [count] : a group of things that are developed from an earlier type • The company claims to be developing the next *generation* of portable computers.

4 [noncount] : the act or process of making or producing something : the act or process of generating something • the *generation* of heat • the *generation* of new ideas

gen-er-a-tion-al /ˌdʒenəˈreɪʃənəl/ *adj*, *always used before noun* : of or relating to different generations of people • *generational* differences • The family was divided along *generational* lines.

— **gen-er-a-tion-al-ly** *adv* • *culturally* and *generationally* different

generation gap *noun* [singular] : the differences in opinions, values, etc., between younger people and older people

Generation X *noun* [noncount] : the group of people in the U.S. who were born during the late 1960s and the 1970s

— **Generation Xer** /-eksə/ *noun*, *pl* ~ **Xers** [count] • a TV show that appeals to *Generation Xers*

gen-er-a-tor /ˌdʒenəˈreɪtə/ *noun*, *pl* -tors [count] : something that produces something • This new product will be a major revenue *generator*; *especially* : a machine that produces electricity • a backup *generator* for the store

1 **ge-ner-ic** /dʒəˈnerɪk/ *adj* [more ~; most ~]

1 : of or relating to a whole group or class • “Flu” is sometimes used as a *generic* term/name for any illness caused by a virus.

2 : not sold or made under a particular brand name • *generic* drugs

3 *biology* : of or relating to a genus

— **ge-ner-i-cal-ly** /dʒəˈnerɪkli/ *adv* • “Flu” is sometimes used *generically* for any illness caused by a virus.

2 **generic** *noun*, *pl* -ics [count] : a product (such as a drug) that is not sold or made under a particular brand name : a generic product • You can substitute *generics* for brand-name drugs on this health plan.

gen-er-os-i-ty /ˌdʒenəˈrɔːsəti/ *noun* [noncount] : the quality of being kind, understanding, and not selfish : the quality of being generous • She is admired for the *generosity* of her spirit. = She is admired for her *generosity* of spirit. [=she is admired because she is a kind person who cares about other people]; *especially* : willingness to give money and other valuable things to others • her *generosity* toward/to the poor

gen-er-ous /ˌdʒenərəs/ *adj* [more ~; most ~]

1 : freely giving or sharing money and other valuable things • a *generous* benefactor • The school raised the money through donations from *generous* alumni. • He was *generous* with both his time and his money. • She has always been very *generous* toward/to the poor.

2 : providing more than the amount that is needed or normal : abundant or ample • a *generous* supply • This restaurant is known for its *generous* portions. • a *generous* helping of mashed potatoes • a *generous* donation

3 : showing kindness and concern for others • She has a *generous* heart/spirit. • He has *generous* sympathy for unemployed workers.

— **gen-er-ous-ly** *adv* • He *generously* insisted on paying for dinner. • She tipped the waiter *generously*. • a *generously* [=lavishly] illustrated book

gen-e-sis /ˌdʒenəsəs/ *noun* [noncount] *somewhat formal* : the beginning of something : ORIGIN • a book about the *genesis* of the civil rights movement

gene therapy *noun* [noncount] *medical* : a way of treating some disorders and diseases that usually involves replacing bad copies of genes with other genes • advances in the science of *gene therapy*

ge-net-ic /dʒəˈnetɪk/ *adj* : of, relating to, or involving genes • a *genetic* disease • *genetic* material • *genetic* fingerprinting [=using genes or parts of genes to identify a person, such as a criminal]

— **ge-net-i-cal-ly** /dʒəˈnetɪkli/ *adv* • *genetically* modified food • a *genetically* inherited illness • *genetically* related offspring

genetic engineering *noun* [noncount] : the science of making changes to the genes of a plant or animal to produce a desired result • The crops were made resistant to disease by *genetic engineering*.

— **genetic engineer** *noun*, *pl* ~ -neers [count] • *Genetic engineers* have introduced a new disease-resistant soybean.

ge·net·i·cist /dʒəˈnetəsɪst/ *noun, pl -cists* [count] : a scientist who studies genetics

ge·net·ics /dʒəˈnetɪks/ *noun* [noncount] : the scientific study of how genes control the characteristics of plants and animals

Ge·ne·va Convention /dʒəˈni:və-/ *noun*
the Geneva Convention : an international law that explains how people who are wounded or taken prisoner during a war are supposed to be treated

ge·nial /ˈdʒiːniəl/ *adj* [more ~; most ~] : cheerful and pleasant • a genial host • a host with a genial manner • He was genial to/toward everyone.
– **ge·nial·i·ty** /ˌdʒiːniˈæləti/ *noun* [noncount] • the geniality of his manner – **ge·nial·ly** /ˈdʒiːniəli/ *adv* • We were chatting genially [=pleasantly] on the phone.

ge·nie /ˈdʒiːni/ *noun, pl -nies* [count] in stories : a magic spirit that looks like a person, often lives in a lamp or bottle, and serves the person who calls it • He rubbed the magic lamp to summon the genie.

gen·i·tal /ˈdʒenətəl/ *adj, always used before a noun* : of or relating to the sexual organs • a genital disease/wart • genital tissue

gen·i·ta·lia /ˌdʒenəˈteɪljə/ *noun* [plural] : GENTALS

gen·i·tals /ˈdʒenətəlz/ *noun* [plural] : sexual organs; especially : the sexual organs on the outside of the body • male/female genitals

gen·i·tive /ˈdʒenətɪv/ *noun* [noncount] *grammar* : the form of a noun or pronoun when it is used to show that someone or something owns, controls, or is associated with someone or something else • a noun in the genitive
– **genitive** *adj* • the genitive case

ge·nius /ˈdʒiːnjəs/ *noun, pl -nius-es*
1 [count] **a** : a very smart or talented person : a person who has a level of talent or intelligence that is very rare or remarkable • Albert Einstein and Isaac Newton were great scientific geniuses. • a musical/artistic/creative genius • You don't have to be a genius to see that this plan will never work. **b** : a person who is very good at doing something • He was a genius at handling the press.
2 **a** [noncount] : great natural ability : remarkable talent or intelligence • She's now widely recognized as an artist of genius. • He's admired for his comic/artistic/scientific genius.
b [singular] : a great or unusual talent or ability — usually + for • She has a genius for knowing what will sell. • He had a genius for getting into trouble. [=he often got into trouble]
3 [singular] **a** : a very clever or smart quality • The (sheer) genius of his theory was not immediately recognized. **b** : a part of something that makes it unusually good or valuable • My plan is simple—that's the genius of it. • The genius of these new computers is their portability.
a stroke of genius : a brilliant and successful idea or decision • Deciding to relocate the company was a stroke of genius.

geno·cide /ˈdʒenəsaɪd/ *noun* [noncount] : the deliberate killing of people who belong to a particular racial, political, or cultural group
– **geno·cid·al** /ˌdʒenəˈsaɪdl/ *adj*

genre /ˈʒɑːnrə/ *noun, pl genres* [count] : a particular type or category of literature or art • a literary/film/musical genre • This book is a classic of the mystery genre.

gent /ˈdʒent/ *noun, pl gents* [count] *informal + old-fashioned* : GENTLEMAN • He's a real gent. • ladies and gents ⇨ In U.S. English, gent is likely to refer to a man who is British. • Our host in London was a delightful old gent. — see also GENTS

gen·teel /dʒenˈti:l/ *adj* [more ~; most ~]
1 **a** somewhat old-fashioned : of or relating to people who have high social status : ARISTOCRATIC • a person of genteel upbringing • She was born into a genteel family. **b** : pretending or trying to have the qualities and manners of people who have high social status • an elderly woman living in genteel poverty • speaking in a genteel accent
2 : having a quietly appealing or polite quality • They lived in a more genteel era. • the genteel manners of an old southern gentleman • genteel grace
– **gen·teel·ly** *adv* – **gen·teel·ness** *noun* [noncount]

gen·tile or **Gen·tile** /ˈdʒen,tajəl/ *noun, pl -tiles* [count] : a person who is not Jewish
– **gentile** or **Gentile** *adj*

gen·til·i·ty /dʒenˈtɪləti/ *noun* [noncount]
1 : high social status • Education was considered a mark of gentility.
2 : a quietly appealing and polite quality or manner : a gen-

teel quality or manner • He's a model of good taste and gentility. [=courtesy]

gen·tle /ˈdʒentl/ *adj* **gen·tler** /ˈdʒentlə/; **gen·tlest** /ˈdʒentləst/ [also more ~; most ~]
1 : having or showing a kind and quiet nature : not harsh or violent • a very gentle man/dog • a dog that is gentle with children • Your mother has a gentle manner/voice/smile. • gentle eyes • a gentle sense of humor • a gentle giant [=a large but gentle person or animal]
2 **a** : not hard or forceful • a gentle rain/breeze/wind • gentle movements • a gentle push • Apply gentle [=soft] pressure to the area. • I heard a gentle knock at the door. **b** : not strong or harsh in effect or quality • a gentle soap = a soap that is gentle on the skin • It's a delicate problem that requires gentle handling/treatment. • The job requires a gentle touch. • The cold snap was a gentle reminder that winter was coming. • gentle flavors
3 : not steep or sharp • a gentle slope/hill • a gentle curve
– **gen·tle·ness** /ˈdʒentlnəs/ *noun* [noncount] • the gentleness of his manner • the gentleness of the breeze – **gent·ly** /ˈdʒentli/ *adv* • She spoke to him gently. • The vase is very fragile, so handle it gently.

gen·tle·folk /ˈdʒentl,fouk/ *noun* [plural] *old-fashioned* : people who have high social status

gen·tle·man /ˈdʒentlmən/ *noun, pl -men* /-mən/ [count]
1 : a man who treats other people in a proper and polite way • A true gentleman would never engage in such behavior.
2 : MAN — used especially in polite speech or when speaking to a group of men • Please show this gentleman to his seat. • Good evening, ladies and gentlemen.
3 *old-fashioned* : a man of high social status • He's a gentleman by birth. • a gentleman farmer [=a gentleman who farms for pleasure]
– **gen·tle·man·li·ness** /ˈdʒentlmənlinəs/ *noun* [noncount]
– **gen·tle·man·ly** /ˈdʒentlmənli/ *adj* [more ~; most ~] • gentlemanly conduct

gentleman's agreement or **gentlemen's agreement** *noun, pl ~ -ments* [count] : an informal agreement based on trust rather than on a legal document

gen·tle·wom·an /ˈdʒentl,wumən/ *noun, pl -wom·en* /-,wɪmən/ [count] *old-fashioned* : a woman of high social status

gen·tri·fy /ˈdʒentrə,fai/ *verb -fies; -fied; -fy·ing* [+ obj] : to change (a place, such as an old neighborhood) by improving it and making it more appealing to people who have money • As the neighborhood became gentrified, the people who had lived there for many years could no longer afford it.
– **gen·tri·fi·ca·tion** /ˌdʒentrəfəˈkeɪʃən/ *noun* [noncount] • a neighborhood undergoing gentrification

gen·try /ˈdʒentri/ *noun*
the gentry *old-fashioned* : people of high social status • a member of the gentry [=the aristocracy] • the landed gentry [=wealthy people who own land]

gents /ˈdʒents/ *noun* [singular] *Brit, informal* : MEN'S ROOM — usually used with *the* • Can you tell me where the gents is, please? — compare LADIES

gen·u·flect /ˈdʒenjə,flekt/ *verb -flects; -flect·ed; -flect·ing* [no obj]
1 : to kneel on one knee and then rise again as an act of respect • They genuflected before the altar in the church.
2 *disapproving* : to obey someone with power in a way that is seen as weak • politicians genuflecting [=kowtowing] to wealthy businessmen
– **gen·u·flec·tion** also *Brit* **gen·u·flex·ion** /ˌdʒenjəˈflekʃən/ *noun, pl -tions* [count, noncount]

gen·u·ine /ˈdʒenjəwən/ *adj* [more ~; most ~]
1 : actual, real, or true : not false or fake • genuine leather • The signature is genuine. [=authentic] • There has been a genuine improvement in the economy in recent months. — often used in the phrase *the genuine article* to refer to someone or something that is not a copy or substitute • Don't fall for cheap imitations; this is the genuine article. • A lot of people pretend to be cowboys, but he's the genuine article. [=he's a real cowboy]
2 : sincere and honest • genuine emotions • She showed a genuine interest in our work. • He has always shown a genuine concern for poor people. • a genuine desire to help others • She seems to be a very genuine person.
– **gen·u·ine·ly** *adv* • He was genuinely concerned. – **gen·u·ine·ness** *noun* [noncount] • the genuineness of the leather • the genuineness of her interest

ge·nus /ˈdʒiːnəs/ *noun, pl gen·era* /ˈdʒenərə/ [count] *biology*



: a group of related animals or plants that includes several or many different species

Gen X /ˈdʒenˈeks/ *noun* [noncount] : GENERATION X — often hyphenated and used before a noun • a *Gen-X* celebrity

– **Gen Xer** /ˈdʒenˈeksə/ *noun*, *pl* ~ **Xers** [count]

geo- /dʒiːjə/ *combining form* : earth : ground : soil • *geology*

geo-cen-tric /ˌdʒiːəˈsentrɪk/ *adj* : having or relating to the Earth as the center • the old *geocentric* theory that the Sun goes round the Earth • a *geocentric* universe — compare **HELIOCENTRIC**

ge-oq-ra-phy /dʒiˈɑːgrəfi/ *noun*, *pl* -**phies**

1 [noncount] : an area of study that deals with the location of countries, cities, rivers, mountains, lakes, etc.

2 : the natural features (such as rivers, mountains, etc.) of a place [noncount] studying the *geography* of the western United States [count] regional *geographies*

– **ge-og-ra-pher** /dʒiˈɑːgrəfə/ *noun*, *pl* -**phers** [count] • She's a professional *geographer*. – **geo-graph-ic** (*chiefly* US) /ˌdʒiːjəˈgræfɪk/ or **geo-graph-i-cal** /ˌdʒiːjəˈgræfɪkəl/ *adj* • a large *geographic* area • *geographical* names – **geo-graph-i-cal-ly** /ˌdʒiːjəˈgræfɪkli/ *adv*

ge-ol-o-gy /dʒiˈɑːlədʒi/ *noun* [noncount]

1 : a science that studies rocks, layers of soil, etc., in order to learn about the history of the Earth and its life

2 : the rocks, land, processes of land formation, etc., of a particular area • learning about the *geology* of Hawaii

– **geo-log-ic** (*chiefly* US) /ˌdʒiːjəˈləːdʒɪk/ or **geo-log-i-cal** /ˌdʒiːjəˈləːdʒɪkəl/ *adj* • the *geologic* features of an area • *geologic* time [=the period of time during which the earth has existed] – **geo-log-i-cal-ly** /ˌdʒiːjəˈləːdʒɪkli/ *adv* – **ge-ol-o-gist** /dʒiˈɑːlədʒɪst/ *noun*, *pl* -**gists** [count]

ge-om-e-try /dʒiˈɑːmətri/ *noun* [noncount] : a branch of mathematics that deals with points, lines, angles, surfaces, and solids

– **geo-met-ric** /ˌdʒiːjəˈmetrɪk/ *also* **geo-met-ri-cal** /ˌdʒiːjəˈmetrɪkəl/ *adj* • *geometric* shapes/patterns – **geo-met-ri-cal-ly** /ˌdʒiːjəˈmetrɪkli/ *adv*

geo-phys-ics /ˌdʒiːjəˈfɪzɪks/ *noun* [noncount] : a branch of science that deals with the physical movements and forces of the Earth (such as its climate and oceans)

geo-pol-i-tics /ˌdʒiːjəˈpɑːləˌtɪks/ *noun*

1 [noncount] : the study of how geography and economics have an influence on politics and on the relations between nations

2 [plural] : the political and geographic parts of something • The *geopolitics* of war are often complex.

– **geo-po-lit-i-cal** /ˌdʒiːjəˈpɑːləˌtɪkəl/ *adj* • *geopolitical* interests – **geo-po-lit-i-cal-ly** /ˌdʒiːjəˈpɑːləˌtɪkli/ *adv*

Geor-gian /ˈdʒoʊrʒən/ *adj* : of or relating to the time from 1714 to 1830 when England was ruled by four kings named George • an example of *Georgian* architecture

geo-ther-mal /ˌdʒiːjəˈθɜːməl/ *adj* : of, relating to, or using the natural heat produced inside the Earth • *geothermal* power; *also* : produced by such heat • *geothermal* steam

ge-ra-ni-um /dʒəˈreɪniəm/ *noun*, *pl* -**ums** [count] : a plant that is grown for its red, white, pink, or purple flowers — see color picture on page C6

ger-bil /ˈdʒəbəl/ *noun*, *pl* -**bils** [count] : a small animal that is often kept as a pet — see picture at **RODENT**

1 **ge-ri-at-ric** /ˌdʒeriˈætrɪk/ *adj*

1 *always used before a noun, medical* : of or relating to the process of growing old and the medical care of old people : of or relating to geriatrics • *geriatric* patients/medicine • *geriatric* illnesses • a *geriatric* ward

2 [more ~; most ~] *informal* : OLD • a *geriatric* dog • children who think that anyone over the age of 40 is *geriatric* • a *geriatric* [=old and outdated] computer • *geriatric* airplanes

2 **geriatric** *noun*, *pl* -**rics** [count] : an old person — usually plural • providing medical care for *geriatrics*

ge-ri-at-rics /ˌdʒeriˈætrɪks/ *noun* [noncount] : a branch of medicine that deals with the problems and diseases of old people • a doctor who specializes in *geriatrics*

germ /dʒɜːm/ *noun*, *pl* **germs** [count]

1 *biology* : a very small living thing that causes disease • the *germ* that causes tuberculosis

2 **a** : the origin or basis of something • the *germ* of an idea

b : a very small amount of something • a *germ* of truth

3 *biology* : something that can grow to become a whole animal, plant, etc., or one of its parts • a *germ* cell • the *germ* layers of an embryo — see also **WHEAT GERM**

Ger-man /ˈdʒəməən/ *noun*, *pl* -**mans**

1 [count] : a person born, raised, or living in Germany : a person whose family is from Germany

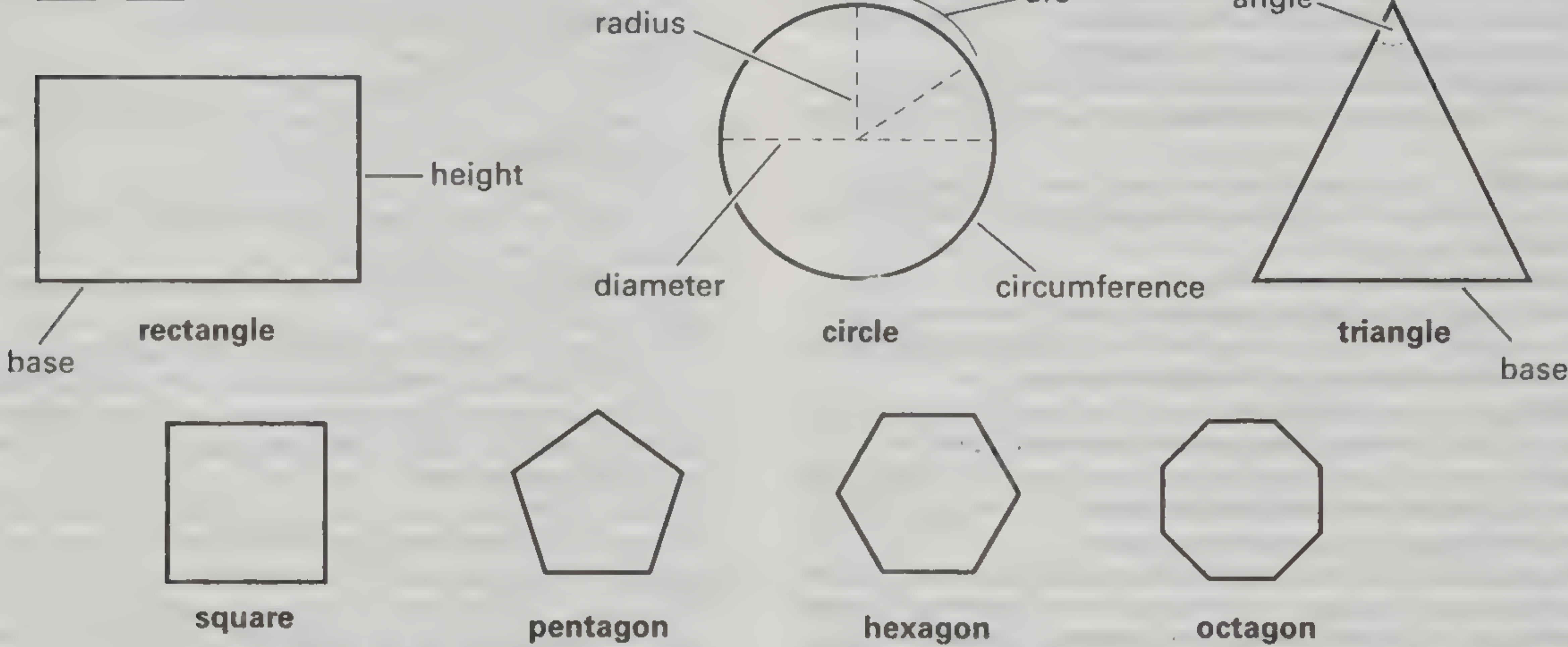
2 [noncount] : the language of Germany that is also spoken in Austria, parts of Switzerland, and other places

– **German** *adj* • *German* food/literature

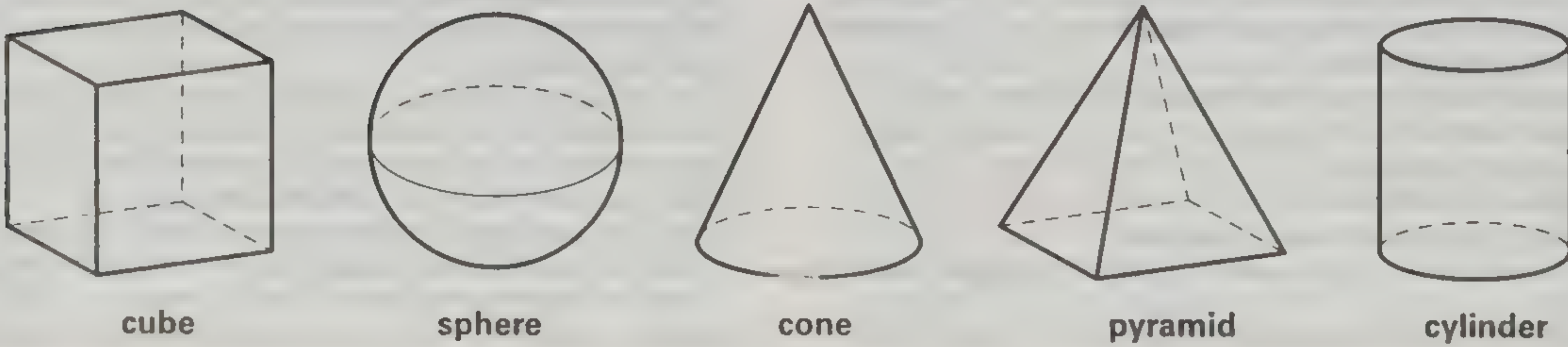
ger-mane /dʒəˈmeɪn/ *adj* [more ~; most ~] *formal* : relating to a subject in an appropriate way : **RELEVANT** • Her com-

geometry

polygons



solids



ments were not *germane* (to the discussion). • facts *germane* to the dispute

— **ger·mane·ly** *adv*

Ger·man·ic /dʒə'mænɪk/ *adj*

1 : of or relating to Germans • their *Germanic* homeland • *Germanic* music/influence/tribes

2 : of or relating to the German language or to other closely related languages • *Germanic* languages, such as German, English, Dutch, and the Scandinavian languages

German mark *noun, pl ~ marks [count]* : DEUTSCHE MARK

German measles *noun [noncount]* : a disease that is less severe than typical measles but that can harm an unborn child if the mother gets the disease when she is pregnant — called also *rubella*

German shepherd *noun, pl ~ herds [count]* : a large dog that is often used in police work and as a guide dog for blind people — called also (*Brit*) *Alsatian*; see picture at DOG

ger·mi·nate /'dʒəməneɪt/ *verb -nates; -nat-ed; -nat-ing*

1 [*no obj*] of a seed : to begin to grow • waiting for the seeds to *germinate* [=sprout] • The seeds *germinated* quickly. — often used figuratively • The idea has been *germinating* [=forming, developing] in his mind for some time.

2 [+ *obj*] : to cause (a seed) to begin to grow • methods used by gardeners to *germinate* seeds

— **ger·mi·na·tion** /'dʒəməneɪʃən/ *noun [noncount]* • seed *germination* • the *germination* of an idea

germ warfare *noun [noncount]* : BIOLOGICAL WARFARE

ger·on·tol·o·gy /'dʒerən'tɔ:lədʒi/ *noun [noncount] techni·cal* : the scientific study of old age and of the process of becoming old

— **ge·ron·to·log·i·cal** /dʒə,rɔ:ntə'lɔ:dʒɪkəl/ *adj* • *geronto·logical* research — **ger·on·tol·o·gist** /'dʒerən'tɔ:lədʒɪst/ *noun, pl -gists [count]*

ger·ry·man·der *verb -ders; -dered; -der-ing* /'dʒeri,mændə/ [+ *obj*] : to divide (a state, school district, etc.) into political units that give one group an unfair advantage • *ger·rymandering* urban districts to give rural voters a majority

ger·und /'dʒerənd/ *noun, pl -unds [count] grammar* : an English noun formed from a verb by adding *-ing* • In the sentence "Learning can be fun," "learning" is a *gerund*.

ge·stalt /gə'stɑ:lt, gə'ftɑ:lt/ *noun [singular] psychology* : something that is made of many parts and yet is somehow more than or different from the combination of its parts • the *gestalt* of human consciousness; *broadly* : the general quality or character of something • the *gestalt* [=feel, atmosphere] of the place • the *gestalt* [=spirit] of the era

ges·ta·tion /dʒe'steɪʃən/ *noun [noncount]*

1 : the time when a person or animal is developing inside its mother before it is born; *also* : the process of development that happens during this time • in the last weeks of *gestation* [=pregnancy]

2 : the process by which something (such as an idea) forms and develops • the *gestation* of new ideas • The book has been in *gestation* for a long time.

ges·tic·u·late /dʒe'stɪkjəleɪt/ *verb -lates; -lat-ed; -lat-ing* [*no obj*] : to move your arms and hands especially when speaking in an angry or emotional way • He was *gesticulating* [=gesturing] wildly during his speech.

— **ges·tic·u·la·tion** /dʒe'stɪkjəleɪʃən/ *noun, pl -tions [count]* strange *gesticulations* [=gestures] [*noncount*] communication by means of *gesticulation*

¹**ges·ture** /'dʒestʃə/ *noun, pl -tures [count]*

1 : a movement of your body (especially of your hands and arms) that shows or emphasizes an idea or a feeling • Specific *gestures* can indicate particular moods. • an obscene *gesture* • His arm was raised in a *gesture* of defiance.

2 : something said or done to show a particular feeling or attitude • a thoughtful/polite/friendly *gesture* • a *gesture* of goodwill • The president's visit was mainly a *symbolic gesture* [=an act that has no purpose or effect other than to show support, respect, etc.]

²**gesture** *verb -tures; -tured; -tur-ing* [*no obj*] : to make a gesture : to move your hands, arms, etc., to express an idea or feeling • She *gestured* towards the fireplace. • He *gestured* at his audience. • The room was filled with angry people shouting and *gesturing*. • He *gestured* (to his partner) that it was time to leave. • He *gestured* to/for his partner to leave.

ge·sund·heit /gə'zunt,haɪt/ *interj, chiefly US* — used to wish good health to someone who has sneezed

get /'get/ *verb gets; got* /'gɑ:t/; **got** or **US got·ten** /'gɑ:tn/; **get·ting**

1 [+ *obj*] : to obtain (something): such as **a** : to receive or be given (something) • He *got* a new bicycle for his birthday. • I never did *get* an answer to my question. • I *got* a letter from my lawyer. • She *got* a phone call from her sister. • Did you *get* my message? • Can I *get* [=catch] a ride to town with you? [=will you give me a ride to town?] • You need to *get* your mother's permission to go. **b** : to obtain (something) through effort, chance, etc. • She hasn't been able to *get* a job. • It's nearly impossible to *get* [=make] a reservation at that restaurant. • If you want to be successful you need to *get* a good education. • It took us a while to *get* the waiter's attention. • She *got* a look at the thief. [=she managed to look at the thief] **c** : to obtain the use or services of (something) • It took us a while to *get* a taxi. • It's hard to *get* good help these days. **d** : to earn or gain (something) • How much does he *get* [=make] a week? • I *got* \$50 when I sold my old bicycle. = I *got* \$50 for my old bicycle. • He's *gotten* a bad reputation (for himself). = He's *gotten* himself a bad reputation. • I *got* an "A" on my history exam! **e** : to win (something) • She *got* first prize in the essay contest.

2 [+ *obj*] : to buy or pay for (something) • He *got* (himself) a new car at a great price. • "Did you *get* that dress at the mall?" "Yes, and I *got* it for only \$20." • Do you *get* [=subscribe to] the local newspaper? • I'll *get* the next round of drinks. • He offered to *get* the check, but I insisted on *getting* it myself. • He *got* a beautiful necklace for his wife. = He *got* his wife a beautiful necklace.

3 [+ *obj*] : to go somewhere and come back with (something or someone) • I'll *get* a pencil from the desk. • Can I *get* anything for you? = Can I *get* you anything? • Someone has to (go) *get* the boss from the airport and bring her back here.

4 [+ *obj*] : to send or take (something or someone) to a person or place • I have to *get* an important message to her at once! • We have to *get* him to the hospital immediately.

5 **a** always followed by an adverb or preposition [+ *obj*] : to cause (someone or something) to move or go • He quickly *got* himself and his luggage through customs. • She *got* the car out of the garage. • I could barely *get* [=fit] the luggage into the car's trunk. • I can't *get* this ring on/off my finger. **b** always followed by an adverb or preposition [*no obj*] : to move or go • He *got* on the horse and rode away. • We *got* on/off the bus. • They quickly *got* [=passed] through customs. • She never *got* out of the house last weekend. • He lost weight to be able to *get* [=fit] into his jeans again. • He *got* between them to keep them from fighting. • Ouch! *Get* off my foot! **c** always followed by an adverb [*no obj*] : to arrive at a place • When did you *get* here/there? • He *got* home last night.

6 [+ *obj*] : to begin to have (a feeling, an idea, etc.) • I *got* a funny feeling when I saw her again. • He somehow *got* the idea that I was lying to him. • I *got* the impression that he wasn't interested. • One thing led to another, and—well, *you get the picture/idea* [=you can easily guess the rest]

7 [+ *obj*] **a** : to become affected by (a disease) • I *got* a bad cold when I was on vacation. • Clean the wound carefully so you don't *get* an infection. **b** : to suffer (an injury) • He *got* a broken nose in a fight. • Where/how did you *get* that bruise on your leg?

8 [+ *obj*] : to have or experience (something) • We've been *getting* a lot of rain recently. • I finally *got* a good night's sleep last night. [=I finally slept well last night] • The inn doesn't *get* many visitors these days. • "Do people often ask if you're Irish?" "Yes, I *get* that a lot." [=people ask me that often] • *You get* [=there are] so many crazy drivers these days.

9 [+ *obj*] : to cause (a particular reaction) • That joke always *gets* a laugh. • Her comments *got* an angry reaction.

10 always followed by an adverb **a** [*no obj*] : to make progress in some activity • He hasn't *gotten* far with the essay. [=he hasn't made much progress with the essay] • You won't *get* anywhere with flattery. [=you won't succeed by using flattery] • At last we're *getting somewhere* (with our work)! — see also GET AHEAD (below) **b** [+ *obj*] : to cause or help (someone) to make progress • All that effort didn't really *get* us very far. • Flattery will *get you nowhere*. = Flattery won't *get you anywhere*.

11 [+ *obj*] : to cause (someone or something) to be in a specified position or condition • He *got* his feet wet when he stepped in a puddle. • He *got* his nose broken in a fight. [=his nose was broken in a fight] • I told you not to *get* yourself dirty. • You nearly *got* us both killed! • I need to *get* [=have] my hair cut. • She finally *got* her office organized. • He promised to *get* the work done quickly. [=to do the work quickly] • When you're making a measurement be careful to *get it right* [=to do it correctly] • Let me *get this straight* [=let me

be sure that I understand this correctly]: are you saying that you won't help us?

12 [+ *obj*] : to cause (someone or something) to do something — usually followed by *to* + *verb* • I can't *get* the children *to behave*. • How can I *get* you *to understand* that this isn't a good idea? • He *got* the computer *to work* again. — sometimes + *-ing verb* • He *got* the computer *working* again.

13 [*no obj*] : to start *doing* something • We *got talking* about old times. — see also GET TO 1a (below)

14 [*no obj*] : to have or be given the chance *to do* something : to be able *to do* something • She never *got to go* to college. • Why do I never *get to drive* the car? • She hopes she'll finally *get to spend* more time working on her garden this year.

15 [+ *obj*] : to deal with (something that needs attention): such as **a** : to answer (a telephone) • Would somebody please *get* the phone? **b** : to open (a door) • If you'll *get* the door for me, I'll carry that box inside. • There's someone at the door. Would you please *get it*? [=open the door and deal with the person who knocked]

16 [+ *obj*] **a** : to understand (something or someone) • I just don't *get* the point of what you're saying. • He didn't *get* the joke. • I don't *get* what you mean. • Oh, now I *get it* [=understand] • He's a strange guy. I just don't *get* him. • Don't *get me wrong* [=don't misunderstand what I am saying] • I *get your drift* [=I understand what you are saying] **b** : to hear and understand (something) • I didn't quite *get* [=catch] his name.

17 a [*linking verb*] : BECOME 1 • My hands *got* dirty when I was working in the garden. • I *get* very nervous when I have to speak in public. • I *got* sick last week but I'm feeling better now. • I just can't *get* used to this cold weather. • She sent her sick friend a "Get Well Soon" card. • I should go; it's *getting* late. • (*Brit, informal*) Your daughter's *getting* quite a big girl now! • We need to finish by 5 o'clock, so we'd better *get busy*. [=begin to work] • You've never heard of the Internet? Come on, now. *Get with it* [=become up-to-date in your knowledge] ♦ People say *how stupid/lucky (etc.) can you get* to mean that someone or something is unusually stupid, lucky, etc. • He tried to rob a policeman. *How stupid can you get*? [=he was very stupid to try to rob a policeman] • Just look at that dress! *How tacky can you get*? [=that dress is very tacky] **b** [*no obj*] : to change in a specified way as time passes — followed by *to* + *verb* • Your daughter is *getting to be* [=is becoming] quite a big girl now!

18 [*no obj*] : to do something specified — followed by *to* + *verb* • Once you *get to know* him, you will like him.

19 [*auxiliary verb*] — used like *be* with the past participle of some verbs to form passive constructions • They *got* [=were] married last month. • He *got* [=was] paid for his work. • She *got* arrested for fraud. • I nearly *got* killed.

20 [+ *obj*] **a** : to have (a meal) • We *got* dinner at an Italian restaurant last night. **b** : to prepare (a meal) • On weekends, my wife sleeps late while I *get* breakfast.

21 [+ *obj*] : to receive (punishment) • He *got* five years in prison for his crime. • (*informal*) If you don't stop misbehaving you're going to *get it* when your father gets home! [=your father is going to punish you]

22 [+ *obj*] : to grip and hold (something or someone) • The dog *got* the thief by the leg. • He *got* [=grabbed] me around/by the neck and wouldn't let go.

23 [+ *obj*] : to find and catch (someone) • The Royal Canadian Mounted Police always *get* their man! [=they always capture the man they are trying to capture]

24 [+ *obj*] : to hit (someone) • The bullet *got* him in the leg.

25 [+ *obj*] **a** : to hurt or cause trouble for (someone) • He's convinced that his ex-wife is out to *get* him. • I'll *get* you if it's the last thing I do! **b** : to cause the death of (someone) • He had heart problems for many years, but it was pneumonia that *got* him in the end.

26 [+ *obj*] *informal* **a** : to bother or annoy (someone) • It really *gets* me that such a foolish man has so much influence. • What *gets* me is all these delays! — see also GET TO 2a (below) **b** : to make (someone) sad • The end of that movie always *gets* me. — see also GET TO 2b (below) **c** : to cause (someone) to be fooled or unable to think of an answer • Well, you *got* [=fooled, tricked] me that time. That was very clever. • That's a good question. *You've got me (there)*. [=I don't know the answer]

27 [+ *obj*] : to make a phone call and hear or speak to (a person or answering machine) • Where were you? I've been trying to *get* [=reach] you (on the phone) all day! • When I tried to call him I *got* his answering machine. [=the phone was answered by his answering machine]

28 [+ *obj*] : to receive (a radio or TV station or channel) • We

don't *get* this channel at home.

29 [+ *obj*] : to produce or provide (a level of performance) • Our new car *gets* [=delivers] excellent gas mileage.

30 [+ *obj*] *informal* : to notice (someone or something) • Did you *get* the way he looked at you? — often used to direct someone's attention to a person or thing that is seen as foolish, surprising, etc. • Just *get* him in his new pants! • She showed up at the party in—*get this*—a \$3,000 designer dress!

get about see GET AROUND (below)

get above yourself see ²ABOVE

get across [*phrasal verb*] **1** : to be clearly expressed to and understood by someone • I hope my point has finally *gotten across* to you. [=I hope you finally understand what I am trying to say] **2 get (something) across or get across (something)** : to express (something) clearly so that it is understood • I don't know if I was able to *get* my point *across* to you. • a politician who is trying hard to *get* his message *across* (to the voters)

get after [*phrasal verb*] *get after (someone)* *US, informal* : to tell (someone) repeatedly to do something • His parents are always *getting after* him about doing his homework. = His parents are always *getting after* him to do his homework.

get ahead [*phrasal verb*] : to become more successful • a book about how to *get ahead* in the business world

get along [*phrasal verb*] **1** : to be or remain friendly • We *get along* well enough, but we're not really close friends. • My brother and my uncle don't really *get along* (with each other). **2** : to make progress while doing something • How are you *getting along* with your work? [=how's your work coming along?] • He never showed up, but we managed to *get along* [=get by] without him. **3** : to leave a place • I really must be *getting along*. [=going, leaving] **4** : to become old • Her parents are *getting along in years*.

get around [*phrasal verb*] **1 or chiefly Brit get about** : to go, walk, or travel to different places • She *gets around* a lot because of her job. • He's having trouble *getting around* because of his sore knee. **2 or chiefly Brit get round or get about** : to become known by many people • People will be shocked when the news about her arrest *gets around*. • Word *got around* that he was resigning. **3 get around (something) or chiefly Brit get round (something)** : to avoid being stopped by (something) : to avoid having to deal with (something) • I'm sure we can find a way to *get around* these problems. • *There's no getting around* the fact that the current system isn't working. [=there is no way to deny that the current system isn't working] **4 get around to (something) or chiefly Brit get round to (something)** : to do or deal with (something that you have not yet done or dealt with) • Don't you think it's about time you *got around to* tidying your room? • I've been meaning to call her, but I just haven't *gotten around to* it. [=I haven't called her] • Sooner or later we'll have to *get around to* the subject of taxation.

get at [*phrasal verb*] **1 get at (something or someone)** : to reach (something or someone) • The valve is hard to *get at* unless you have a special tool. • An angry mob tried to *get at* him but the police protected him. **2 get at (something)** : to find out (information that is hidden or hard to know) • How can we ever *get at* the truth? **3 get at (something)** : to say or suggest (something) in an indirect way — usually used as *getting at* • Just what are you *getting at*? [=what are you suggesting?] **4 get at (someone)** *Brit* : to criticize (someone) repeatedly • He says his teachers are always *getting at* [= (US) *getting on*] him unfairly. • He's always being *got at* by his teachers. **5 get at it** *US, informal* : to start doing something • You have a lot of work to do so you'd better *get at it*. [=get to it]

get away [*phrasal verb*] **1** : to go away from a place • I'll be busy at work all day and I can't *get away* until tonight. — often used figuratively • The company is having problems because they've *gotten away from* the things they do best. [=they have stopped doing the things they do best] **2** : to go away from your home for a vacation • I'm taking some time off because I really need to *get away* for a few days. • We went on a cruise to *get away from it all*. **3** : to avoid being caught : to escape • The robbers *got away* (from the police) in a fast car. — often + *with* • The robbers *got away with* a lot of stolen jewelry. — sometimes used figuratively • You can't *get away from* the facts. = *There's no getting away from* the facts. [=you can't avoid or deny the facts; the facts are known and cannot be ignored] — see also GETAWAY **4 get away with (something)** **a** : to not be crit-

icized or punished for (something) • She's incredibly rude. I don't know how she *gets away with* it. — often used figuratively • There's a chance of rain, but I think I can probably *get away with* leaving my umbrella at home. [=I probably will not need my umbrella] • It would be nice to have more food for the party, but I think we can *get away with* what we have. [=I think what we have is enough and will not cause problems for us] **b** : to be given only slight or mild punishment for a crime or for doing something wrong • The policeman stopped her for speeding but let her *get away with* just a warning. — see also *get away with murder* at ¹MURDER

get back [phrasal verb] **1** : to return to a place after going away • When did you *get back* from your vacation? • We *got back* to the office in the early afternoon. **2** : to return to an activity, condition, etc. — usually + *to* • Things are finally *getting back to* normal. • Let's *get back to* the topic we were discussing yesterday. • It's time to *get back to work* [=to start working again] **3** *get (something) back or get back (something)* : to get or obtain (something you have lost) again : to recover (something) • He *got* his old job *back* after a long struggle. • Someone stole his wallet but he *got it back* from the police. **4** *get (someone) back or get back at (someone)* or *Brit get your own back informal* : to do something bad or unpleasant to someone who has treated you badly or unfairly • I'll *get you back* for what you did to me! • After he lost his job, he vowed that he would find a way to *get back at* his old boss. **5** *get back to (someone)* **a** : to talk to or write to (someone) at a later time in order to give more information, answer a question, etc. • He *got back to* me (by e-mail) in a few days with a new offer. • "How much will it cost?" "I'm not sure. I'll have to *get back to* you on that." **b** : to call (someone) back on the telephone • "There's someone on the phone for you, sir." "Tell them I can't take their call now but I'll *get back to* them as soon as I can."

get back to (the) basics see ²BASIC

get behind [phrasal verb] **1** : to fail to do something as quickly as required or expected • We've been *getting further (and further) behind* (schedule). • We *got behind* with our car payments. **2** *get behind (someone or something)* : to support (someone or something) • The proposal may succeed if a few more people *get behind* it.

get by [phrasal verb] **1** : to do enough or to do well enough to avoid failure • He's doing very well in his history classes, but he's barely *getting by* in math. **2** : to be able to live or to do what is needed by using what you have even though you do not have much • We don't have a lot of money, but we *get by*. — often + *on* • How can you *get by on* such a small salary? — often + *with* • We *got by with* a minimum of clothing when we went camping.

get cracking see ¹CRACK

get down [phrasal verb] **1** *get (someone) down* : to cause (someone) to become sad or depressed • The weather was really *getting her down*. • Talking about politics always *gets me down*. **2** *get (something) down or get down (something)* **a** : to swallow (something) : to eat or drink (something) • You'll feel better once you *get* this medicine *down*. **b** : to write (something) down • If you have a good idea, you should *get it down* (in writing) so that you won't forget it. **3** *informal* : to play music or dance with skill and enthusiasm • She likes to *get down* on the dance floor. **4** *get down to (something)* **a** : to start to do (something) : to begin to give your attention or effort to (something) • It's time to stop delaying and *get down to* work. • Let's *get down to business* **b** : to talk about or describe (something) in a very simple and accurate way • *When you get right down to it* this movie is just not very good.

get even see ¹EVEN

get going **1** : to leave • We ought to *get going* if we don't want to be late. **2** : to start doing something • You should *get going on* that assignment. **3** **a** : to start talking • Once he *gets going* about the war you can't shut him up. **b** : to cause (someone) to start talking • Don't *get him going* about the war or you'll never shut him up!

get hold of see ²HOLD

get in [phrasal verb] **1** **a** : to enter a place • The burglar *got in* through an unlocked window. **b** : to arrive at a place • The train *got in* late. **c** : to arrive home • Her husband was out late last night. He didn't *get in* until almost midnight. **2** : to become involved in an activity • The people who have become rich in this business are the ones who *got in* at the beginning. **3** : to be chosen or elected for of-

fice • The mayor *got in* by a very slim margin. **4** *get in or get (someone) in* : to be accepted or to cause (someone) to be accepted as a student, member, etc. • It's a very good school. I hope your daughter *gets in*. • I hope you *get* your daughter *in*. **5** *get (someone) in* : to have (someone) come to your home, business, etc., to do work • We had to *get* a doctor/plumber *in* to deal with the emergency. **6** *get (something) in or get in (something)* **a** : to do or say (something) by making an effort • He managed to *get* a few good punches *in* before they stopped the fight. • May I *get a word in* here? [=may I say something here?] — see also *get a word in edgewise* at EDGEWISE **b** : to send or deliver (something) to the proper person or place • Did you *get* your assignment *in* on time? **c** : to do (something) in the amount of time that is available • I was able to *get in* a few hours of reading last night. • I hope we can *get in* a visit to the art museum the next time we're in the city. **d** : to harvest (a crop) and put it in a safe or dry place • It's time to *get* the crop/harvest *in*. • We'd better *get* the hay *in* before it rains. **7** *get in on (something)* : to become involved in (something) • It sounds like an interesting project and I'd like to *get in on* it. **8** *get in with (someone)* : to become friends with (someone) • She *got in with* [=fell in with] a bad crowd and got into trouble. • He managed to *get in good with* the boss. [=he got the boss to like him]

get into [phrasal verb] **1** *get into (a place)* **a** : to enter (a place) • The burglar *got into* the house through an unlocked window. **b** : to arrive at (a place) • The train *got into* New York late last night. **2** *get into (something)* **a** : to become involved in (an activity) • The people who have become rich in this business are the ones who *got into* it at the beginning. **b** : to begin to be interested in and to enjoy (something) • It's only recently that I've really *gotten into* music. • I tried reading the book, but I just couldn't *get into* it. **3** *get into (something) or get (someone) into (something)* **a** : to be accepted or to cause (someone) to be accepted as a student, member, etc. • I hope your daughter *gets into* the school. • I hope you *get* your daughter *into* the school. **b** : to become involved or to cause (someone) to become involved in (something bad, such as trouble or a fight) • He *got into* a lot of trouble when he was a teenager. • They *got into* an argument. • His friends *got him into* trouble. **4** *get into (something)* : to talk about (something) • I'll tell you what happened, but I don't want to *get into* [=go into] all the reasons for why it happened. **5** *got into (someone)* : to affect the behavior of (someone) — used to say that someone is behaving in an unusual way and you don't know why • I don't know what has *gotten into* him lately. • She never used to be so rude to people. *What got into her?* [=why is she behaving this way?]

get lost see ²LOST

get lucky see LUCKY

get moving see ¹MOVE

get off [phrasal verb] **1** : to leave at the start of a journey • We *got off* early on our camping trip. — often used figuratively in the phrase *get off to a good/bad (etc.) start* • He and I *got off to a bad start*, but now we get along well. • The project *got off to a slow start*. — see also *get off on the right/wrong foot* at ¹FOOT **2** *get off or get (someone) off* **a** : to not be punished for a crime : to be judged not guilty of a crime • He's been arrested several times, but he always *gets off*. : to help (someone) to be judged not guilty • His lawyer *got him off*. **b** : to be given or to help (someone) to be given only a slight punishment for a crime • She *got off* lightly. — usually + *with* • He *got off with* a light sentence. • His lawyer tried to *get him off with* a light sentence. — sometimes used figuratively • It was a bad accident. You're lucky that you *got off with* just a broken leg—you could have been killed! **3** : to stop being on or against someone or something • *Get off*—you're hurting me! • I took the subway and *got off* at the downtown station. — see also GET 5a b (above) **4** *get off (something) or get (someone) off (something)* : to stop talking about (something) or to cause (someone) to stop talking about (something) • We somehow *got off* (the subject of) work and started talking about our personal lives. • I tried to change the subject, but I couldn't *get her off* it. **5** *get off or get off work* : to finish working and leave the place where you work • I *get off* early on Fridays. • I *got off work* early last Thursday so I could see the parade. **6** *get (something) off or get off (something)* **a** : to write and send (a letter, an e-mail message, etc.) • I'll *get* the letter *off* (to them) tomorrow. **b** : to shoot (something) from a gun • The policeman *got off*



[=fired] several shots before the criminal escaped. — sometimes used figuratively • He managed to *get off* a few good jokes in his speech. **7 get off or get (someone) off chiefly Brit** : to fall asleep or to help (someone, such as a baby) to fall asleep • I had just *got off* [=dropped off] when the doorbell rang. = I had just *got off to sleep* when the doorbell rang. • I just *got* the baby *off to sleep*. **8 get off or get (someone) off US, informal** : to have an orgasm or to cause (someone) to have an orgasm **9 get off on (something) informal + sometimes disapproving** : to enjoy or be excited by (something) especially in a sexual way • He's one of those guys who seem to *get off on* making other people feel guilty. **10 get off with (someone) Brit, informal** : to have sex with (someone) : to begin a sexual relationship with (someone) • She found out he'd *gotten off with* another woman. **11 informal a** ♦ To *tell someone where to get off* is to criticize or disagree with someone in a very direct and angry way. • I was sick of listening to his constant complaints, so I *told him where to get off*. **b US** ♦ If you *don't know where someone gets off* (doing something), you are angry because someone has done something that is not right. • I *don't know where he gets off* telling me what to do. = *Where does he get off* telling me what to do? [=he has no right to tell me what to do]

get on [phrasal verb] **1 get on with (something)** : to continue doing (something) • I didn't mean to interrupt you. I'll let you *get on with* your work. • You need to stop feeling sorry for yourself and just *get on with your life*. [=return to doing the things you do in your normal life] • This introduction is taking forever. I wish they'd just *get on with it*. [=stop delaying and get to the interesting or important part] **2 chiefly Brit** : to be or remain friendly : to get along • They've never really *got on* (with each other). • We *get on* well enough, but we're not really close friends. **3 chiefly Brit a** : to make progress while doing something • How is your daughter *getting on* in/at school? • We can *get on* [=get along, get by, manage] just fine without them. **b** : to achieve greater success : to get ahead • an ambitious young woman trying to *get on* in business **4 get on (something) US** : to start to do or deal with (something) • "These files need to be organized." "I'll *get on* it right away." **5 get on (someone) US** : to criticize (someone) repeatedly • His boss has been *getting on* him about the quality of his work. • She's always *getting on his case* about cleaning his room. [=she's always telling him to clean it] **6 get it on US slang** : to have sex **7 informal a get on or get on in years** : to grow old • My grandmother is *getting on* [=aging] a bit, but she's still very active. **b** : to become late • It's *getting on*, and we really ought to go. **8 get on for (something) Brit, informal** : to move toward becoming (a specified age, time, etc.) • He's *getting on for* 70. [=he's approaching 70; he is nearly 70] • It was *getting on for* noon.

get onto or get on to [phrasal verb]

1 get onto (something) or get on to (something) : to start to do or deal with (something) • "We need someone to send out the invitations." "I'll *get onto* [=get on] it right away." : to start to talk about something • How did we *get onto* this topic? **2 get onto (someone) or get on to (someone) Brit** : to speak to or write to (someone) about a particular problem, job, etc. • I'll *get onto* [=get in touch with] the doctor/plumber straightaway and see if he'll come round.

get out [phrasal verb] **1 a** : to leave or escape from a place, a vehicle, etc. • He was trapped in the burning building/car, but he was somehow able to *get out* (of it) alive. — used as an angry way to tell someone to leave • *Get out!* I never want to see you again! **b get (someone) out** : to cause or help (someone) to leave or escape • The firemen managed to *get him out* (of the burning building) alive. **c get (something) out or get out (something)** : to remove (something) from storage so that it can be used • It's raining. I'd better *get out* the umbrella. **2** : to go to places outside your home for social occasions, events, etc. • You spend too much time at home. You need to *get out* more. **3** : to become known • Their secret *got out*. • Word *got out* that she was resigning. **4 get (something) out or get out (something)** : to say (something) by making an effort • He managed to *get out* a few words before he collapsed. **5 US, informal** — used in speech to show that you are surprised by something or do not believe it • "They gave the job to Jane." "*Get out!*" = "*Get out of here!*" **6 get out of (something) or get (someone or something) out of (something) a** : to avoid doing (something) or to help (someone) to avoid doing (something) • I didn't want to go to the

lecture, but I couldn't *get out of* it. • He tried to *get out of* doing his homework. • My sister said she could *get me out of* going to the party if I really didn't want to go **b** : to stop having (a habit) or to cause (someone) to stop having (a habit) • I used to exercise every day, but I *got out of* the habit. • All the extra work I've been doing has *gotten me out of* the habit of exercising. **c** : to stop being in or involved in (something) or to cause (someone or something) to stop being in or involved in (something) • The company has decided to *get (itself) out of* the computer business. • She *got* her money *out of* the stock market. **7 get (something) out of (something or someone)** : to take (something) from (something or someone) • The police officer *got* the gun *out of* the suspect's hand. • The police officer *got* a confession *out of* the suspect. **8 get (something) out of (something)** : to gain (something) from (something) • What do you hope to *get out of* this experience?

get over [phrasal verb] **1 get over (something) a** : to stop being controlled or bothered by (something, such as a problem or feeling) • You need to *get over* [=overcome] your fear of being lied to. **b** : to stop feeling unhappy about (something) • She's disappointed about their decision, but she'll *get over* it eventually. **c informal** — used to say that you are very surprised or impressed by something • I just can't *get over* how much weight you've lost! **2 get over (an illness)** : to become healthy again after (an illness) • He had a bad cold, and he still hasn't *gotten over* it completely. **3 get over (someone)** : to stop feeling unhappy after ending a relationship with (someone) • He broke up with his girlfriend a couple of months ago, and he still hasn't *gotten over* her. **4 get (something) over a or get (something) over with** : to cause or experience the end of (something) : to finish (something) • I just want to *get this ordeal over!* = I just want to *get this ordeal over with!* = I just want to *get this ordeal over and done with!* [=I want this ordeal to end] **b or get over (something) chiefly Brit** : to express (something) clearly so that it is understood • I don't know if I was able to *get my message over* [=across] to them.

get real see ¹REAL

get rid of see RID

get rolling see ¹ROLL

get round see GET AROUND (above)

get the best of see ³BEST

get the better of see ³BETTER

get there : to reach a goal : to do what you are trying to do • We haven't made a profit yet, but we'll *get there* eventually. [=we'll make a profit eventually] : to come closer to reaching a goal • We haven't made a profit yet, but we're *getting there*.

get through [phrasal verb] **1 a chiefly US** : to finish a job or activity • When you *get through* (with that job), I've got something else for you to do. **b get through (something)** : to do or finish (something, such as an amount of work) • We *got through* [=covered] all of the material that we wanted to cover. • There's still a lot of paperwork to be *gotten through*. **c get through (something) or get (someone) through (something)** : to complete or to help (someone) to complete (a test, an exam, etc.) successfully • She studied hard and *got through* [=passed] her exams. • The extra hours of study are what *got her through* her exams. **2 get through or get through (something) or get (something) through (something)** : to pass through or beyond something that blocks you or slows you down • Traffic was very heavy, but we managed to *get through* (it). • Rescuers are having trouble *getting through* to the flood victims. : to cause (something) to pass through or beyond something • Traffic was very heavy, but we managed to *get our truck through* (it). • Rescuers are having trouble *getting supplies through* to the flood victims. **3 get through (something) or get (someone) through (something)** : to have the experience of living through (something that is difficult, dangerous, etc.) • It was a very difficult time in our marriage, but we *got through* it. • I don't know how those early settlers managed to *get through* [=survive] the winter. : to help (someone) to live through (something) • It was pure determination that *got them through* that crisis. **4 get through (something) chiefly Brit** : to spend or use all of (something) • He *got through* [=went through] all the money he inherited in just a few years. • They *got through* [=went through] three bottles of wine with dinner. **5 a get through or get through to (someone)** : to be clearly expressed to and understood by someone • I hope my message has finally *gotten through* to you. [=I hope you finally understand my

message] • I think my message finally *got through*. **b** *get through to (someone) or get (something) through to (someone)* : to express something clearly so that it is understood by (someone) • I've talked to him many times, but I just can't seem to *get through to* him. • I hope I've finally *gotten* my message *through to* him. **6** *get through or get through to (someone)* : to make a successful telephone call to someone • I tried to call home but I couldn't *get through*. • Where were you? I've been trying to *get through to* you (on the phone) all day! **7** *get through or get through (something)* : to be accepted or approved by an official group • The bill finally *got through* [=passed] and eventually became a law. • The bill finally *got through* [=passed] Congress and eventually became a law.

get to [phrasal verb] **1** *get to (something)* **a** : to start (doing something) • She sometimes *gets to* worrying over her health. • We *got to* talking about old times. **b** : to deal with (something) • The letter is on my desk, but I haven't *gotten to* it yet. • I'll *get to* the accounts as soon as I can. **2** *get to (someone)* **a** : to bother or annoy (someone) • All these delays are starting to *get to* me. — see also GET 26a (above) **b** : to make (someone) feel sad • The movie's sad ending really *got to* me. — see also GET 26b (above) **c** *chiefly US* : to change or influence the behavior of (someone) wrongly or illegally by making threats, paying money, etc. • The witness changed his story. Someone must have *gotten to* him. **3** *get to (somewhere)* : to go to or reach (somewhere) • We *got to* the station/airport just in time.

get together [phrasal verb] **1** **a** : to meet and spend time together • I'd like to *get together* with you soon. • He often *gets together* with his friends after work. **b** : to begin to have a sexual or romantic relationship • He and his wife first *got together* in college. **c** *get (people) together* : to cause (people) to meet or to have a relationship • Their shared interest in photography is what *got them together*. **2** : to agree to do or accept something — often + *on* • The two sides have been unable to *get together on* a new contract. **3** *get together (things or people) or get (things or people) together* : to collect (things) or gather (people) into one place or group • He *got together* [=assembled] a great art collection. • The government *got together* a group of experts to study the problem. • We're still trying to *get together* [=obtain] the money we need to buy a new car. **4** *get your act together or get yourself together or get it together informal* **a** or *get your life together* : to begin to live in a good and sensible way : to stop being confused, foolish, etc. • His life *got much better* when he stopped drinking and *got his act together*. **b** : to begin to function in a skillful or effective way • The company finally *got its act together* and started making a profit this year.

get to sleep : to start sleeping : to fall asleep • She finally *got to sleep* after midnight.

get to work : to start working • We need to stop delaying and *get to work*.

get up [phrasal verb] **1** *get up or get (someone) up* : to rise or to cause (someone) to rise after lying or sleeping in a bed • I *got up* [=got out of bed] early this morning. • I woke up early but I didn't *get up* till later. • The alarm clock *got me up* earlier than usual. **2** : to stand up • He *got up to* greet her when she entered the room. **3** *get (something) up or get up (something)* **a** : to produce (something, such as courage) in yourself by trying or making an effort • He couldn't *get up* the courage to ask her out on a date. • She was so tired she could hardly *get up* the energy to make dinner. **b** : to prepare or organize (something that involves a group of people) • They're trying to *get up* a petition to have the movie theater reopened. **4** *get it up slang* : to get an erection

get up on the wrong side of the bed see ¹BED

get what's coming to you see ¹COME

get wind of see ¹WIND

get your bearings see BEARING

get your goat see GOAT

have got see HAVE

get-away /'getə,wei/ noun, pl -aways [count]

1 : the act of getting away or escaping • The robbers made a clean *getaway*. [=escape] • He drove the *getaway car* [=the car used by criminals to leave the scene of a crime]

2 **a** : a short vacation • We're planning a weekend *getaway* to the mountains. **b** : a place where people go for a short vacation • The resort advertises itself as the perfect island *get-away*. — see also *get away* at GET

get-go /'git,gou, 'get,gou/ noun

from the get-go US, informal : from the very beginning •

She didn't like me *from the get-go*. • They were involved in the project *from the get-go*.

get-out /'get,aut/ noun, pl -outs [count] Brit, informal : an excuse that lets you avoid doing something (such as a duty) • Is there no *getout* I can use to avoid attending the meeting? — see also ALL GET-OUT, *get out* 6 at GET

get-to-geth-er /'gettə,geðə/ noun, pl -ers [count] : an informal social gathering • There is a family *get-together* this weekend. • She's hosting a *get-together* for her classmates.

get-ter /'getə/ noun, pl -ters [count] : someone or something that receives, gets, or is given something • the top vote *getter* [=the person who receives the most votes] • a real attention *getter*

get-up /'get,ʌp/ noun, pl -ups [count] informal : an unusual outfit or costume • He came onstage in a cowboy *getup*. • a guy in a crazy *getup*

get-up-and-go /,get,ʌpən'gou/ noun [noncount] informal : energy and enthusiasm • full of *get-up-and-go* • I'm not as young as I used to be, but I still have plenty of *get-up-and-go*.

gew-gaw /'gu:,gə:/ noun, pl -gaws [count] : a small thing that has little value • collectible/childish *gewgaws* [=trinkets]

geyser /'gai,zə, Brit 'gi:zə/ noun, pl -sers [count]

1 : a hole in the ground that shoots out hot water and steam • The water from the *geyser* rises as high as 75 feet.; also : the column of water and steam that comes from a geyser • *geysers* rising as high as 75 feet • The water shot into the sky in an enormous *geyser*.

2 Brit : a device for heating water in a bathroom or kitchen

ghast-ly /'gæstli, Brit 'gɑ:stli/ adj **ghast-li-er; -est**

1 : very shocking or horrible • a *ghastly* [=gruesome, hideous] crime/ritual • Her behavior was truly *ghastly*. [=dreadful, appalling]

2 : very bad : TERRIBLE, AWFUL • You're making a *ghastly* mistake. • His room was a *ghastly* mess. • I feel *ghastly*. [=I feel very unwell]

— **ghast-li-ness** noun [noncount] • the *ghastliness* of the crime — **ghastly** adv • Her face was *ghastly* [=ghostly] pale/white.

gher-kin /'gækən/ noun, pl -kins [count] : a small cucumber that is used to make pickles

ghet-to /'getou/ noun, pl -tos also -toes [count]

1 : a part of a city in which members of a particular group or race live usually in poor conditions • a Jewish *ghetto*

2 : the poorest part of a city • He grew up in the *ghetto*. — sometimes used figuratively • The program has been banished to the *ghetto* of late-night television.

ghetto blaster noun, pl ~ -ers [count] informal : BOOM BOX

ghet-to-ize also Brit **ghet-to-ise** /'getou,aiz/ verb -iz-es; -ized; -iz-ing [+ obj]

1 : to place (someone or something) in a ghetto • *ghettoized* minorities — often used figuratively • a program *ghettoized* to late-night television

2 : to turn (something) into a ghetto • Parts of the city that had been *ghettoized* are now being restored.

ghost /'goust/ noun, pl **ghosts**

1 [count] : the soul of a dead person thought of as living in an unseen world or as appearing to living people • a house haunted by *ghosts* • He looks like he's just seen a *ghost*. [=he looks frightened] — sometimes used figuratively • She is still haunted by the *ghosts* of her past. [=she is still troubled by bad memories of the past]

2 [singular] : a very small amount or trace — usually + *of* • I thought I detected the *ghost of* a smile [=a very faint smile] on her lips. • He doesn't have/stand a *ghost of a chance* of winning. [=he has no chance of winning]

give up the ghost informal : to die — often used figuratively • After years of service my car finally *gave up the ghost*.

ghost verb **ghosts; ghost-ed; ghost-ing** [+ obj] : GHOST-WRITE • She *ghosted* the mayor's autobiography.

ghost-ly /'goustli/ adj **ghost-li-er; -est** [or more ~; most ~] : of or relating to a ghost • A *ghostly* figure appears in the house at night. : suggesting a ghost • a *ghostly* fog • leading a *ghostly* existence • a *ghostly* white gown

— **ghost-li-ness** noun [noncount] — **ghostly** adv • Her face was *ghostly* pale/white.

ghost story noun, pl ~ -ries [count] : a frightening story about ghosts

ghost town noun, pl ~ towns [count] : a town that no longer has any people living in it : an abandoned town • Af-

ter all the gold was mined, the place became a *ghost town*.

ghost-write /'goust,raɪt/ *verb* **-writes; -wrote** /-,raʊt/; **-writ·ten** /-,rɪtɪn/; **-writ·ing** [+ *obj*] : to write (something, such as a book) for someone else using that person's name • She was hired to *ghostwrite* the mayor's autobiography. • *ghostwritten* books/articles

– **ghost-writ·er** *noun*, *pl* **-ers** [count]

ghoul /'gu:l/ *noun*, *pl* **ghouls** [count] : an evil creature in frightening stories that robs graves and eats dead bodies

– **ghoul·ish** /'gu:lɪʃ/ *adj* [more ~; most ~] • a *ghoulish* [=fiendish] laugh • He took a *ghoulish* [=sinister] delight in their troubles. – **ghoul·ish·ly** *adv* • laughing *ghoulishly*

– **ghoul·ish·ness** *noun* [noncount] • the *ghoulishness* of his laughter

GI /,dʒi:'aɪ/ *noun*, *pl* **GI's or GIs** [count] : a member or former member of the U.S. armed forces — often used before another noun • *GI* bill/rations

¹**gi·ant** /'dʒaɪənt/ *adj* [more ~; most ~] : very large : much larger or more powerful than normal • a *giant* photograph/machine/wrestler • a *giant* corporation • a *giant-size* box of detergent

²**giant** *noun*, *pl* **-ants** [count]

1 : a legendary creature usually thought of as being an extremely large and powerful person • the land of the *giants*

2 : a person or thing that is very large, powerful, or successful • a big baby who grew up to be a *giant* of a man [=a very large man] • The company has become a *giant* of the automotive industry. [=it has become very large and successful] • an American literary *giant*

giant panda *noun*, *pl* ~ **-das** [count] : PANDA 1

giant sequoia *noun*, *pl* ~ **-quoias** [count] : a very tall evergreen tree that grows in the western U.S. — called also *sequoia*

giant squid *noun*, *pl* ~ **squid** or ~ **squids** [count] : a very large type of squid

giant tortoise *noun*, *pl* ~ **-toises** [count] : a large plant-eating tortoise ♦ Giant tortoises were once common on islands in the Pacific and Indian oceans, but they are now rare.

gib·ber /'dʒɪbər/ *verb* **-bers; -bered; -ber·ing** [no *obj*] : to talk in a fast or foolish way • What are they *gibbering* about now? • Calm down! You sound like a *gibbering* idiot!

gib·ber·ish /'dʒɪbəriʃ/ *noun* [noncount] : foolish, confused, or meaningless words • His lecture seemed like nothing but *gibberish*. [=nonsense] • She was talking *gibberish* in her sleep.

gib·bon /'gɪbən/ *noun*, *pl* **-bons** [count] : a small ape of southeastern Asia that has long arms and legs and lives mostly in trees — see picture at APE

gibe or jibe /'dʒaɪb/ *noun*, *pl* **gibes or jibes** [count] : an insulting or critical remark that is meant to hurt someone or make someone appear foolish • The other children made cruel *gibes* about her weight. • He used his speech as an opportunity to take/make *gibes* at his political opponents.

gib·let /'dʒɪblət/ *noun*, *pl* **-lets** [count] : an organ (such as the heart or liver) of a bird that is cooked and eaten as food — usually plural • *gravy with giblets*

gid·dy /'gɪdi/ *adj* **gid·di·er; -est**

1 : playful and silly • *giddy* children • *giddy* antics • a *giddy* atmosphere

2 : feeling or showing great happiness and joy • The news made him positively *giddy*. • He was *giddy* with delight. • The room was filled with *giddy* laughter.

3 *always used before a noun* : causing dizziness • *giddy* heights • *giddy* panoramic views — often used figuratively • Her second book lifted her to *giddy* heights of literary fame. [=made her extremely famous]

– **gid·di·ly** /'gɪdəli/ *adv* • He was talking *giddily* [=excitedly] about his business plan. – **gid·di·ness** /'gɪdɪnəs/ *noun* [noncount] • youthful *giddiness* [=silliness, lightheartedness]

¹**gift** /'ɡɪft/ *noun*, *pl* **gifts** [count]

1 : something that is given to another person or to a group or organization • The money was a *gift*, not a loan. • a birthday/Christmas/anniversary/wedding *gift* [=present] • We always exchange *gifts* [=we give each other gifts] on our anniversary. • a generous/lavish/small *gift* • a *charitable gift* [=something, such as money, that is given to a charity]

2 : a special ability • She considers her voice a God-given *gift*. • He's an athlete with many physical *gifts*. [=talents] — often + *for* • He has a *gift for* expressing himself. • a *gift for* playing the piano • an actor with a *gift for* comedy — sometimes + *of* • She claimed to have the *gift of* prophecy.

God's gift *informal* + *disapproving* — used to describe the attitude of people who think that they are very talented,

attractive, etc. • He thinks he's *God's gift* to the world. [=he thinks very highly of himself; he is very vain or conceited]

look a gift horse in the mouth see ¹HORSE

the gift of gab see ²GAB

²**gift** *verb* **gifts; gift·ed; gift·ing** [+ *obj*] : to present (someone) with a gift • The foundation has *gifted* the museum with an important collection of paintings. [= (more commonly) the foundation has given the museum an important collection of paintings] — see also GIFTED

gift certificate *noun*, *pl* ~ **-cates** [count] *US* : a piece of paper that is worth a certain amount of money and is given to someone to be used like money to pay for things (such as the products or services of a particular business) • a \$10 *gift certificate* — called also (Brit) *gift token*, (Brit) *gift voucher*

gift·ed /'ɡɪftəd/ *adj* [more ~; most ~] : having great natural ability : TALENTED • He's an extremely *gifted* student/athlete. • a school for *gifted* children

gifted with ♦ To be *gifted with* something is to have it as a special ability or quality. • She is *gifted with* a talent for playing the piano. • He is *gifted with* a good sense of humor.

gift shop *noun*, *pl* ~ **shops** [count] : a store (such as a small store in a museum) that sells things which might be given people as gifts

¹**gift wrap** *noun* [noncount] : decorative paper that is used for wrapping gifts • a roll of *gift wrap*

²**gift wrap** *verb* ~ **wraps; ~ wrapped; ~ wrapping** [+ *obj*] : to wrap (a gift) in decorative paper • The store will *gift wrap* your purchases for you.

– **gift-wrapped** *adj* • a *gift-wrapped* box • a *gift-wrapped* bottle of wine

¹**gig** /'ɡɪɡ/ *noun*, *pl* **gigs** [count] *informal* : a job for a musician, an actor, etc. • He was finally able to book a *gig* [=to arrange a performance or series of performances] at the nightclub. • a talk-show *gig* • her last acting *gig*; broadly, *US* : JOB • I have a part-time job, but I really need a full-time *gig*.

²**gig** *verb* **gigs; gigged; gig·ging** [no *obj*] *informal* : to work as a musician • He *gigged* in a band during the summer.

giga·byte /'ɡɪɡə,baɪt/ *noun*, *pl* **-bytes** [count] : a unit of computer information equal to 1,073,741,824 bytes • a six-*gigabyte* hard drive — abbr. *GB*; compare KILOBYTE, MEGABYTE

gi·gan·tic /dʒaɪ'ɡæntɪk/ *adj* [more ~; most ~] : extremely large • *Gigantic* [=huge, monstrous] waves were crashing on the beach. • a *gigantic* [=immense, enormous] corporation • He made a *gigantic* [=huge] mistake when he quit his job.

gig·gle /'ɡɪɡəl/ *verb* **gig·gles; gig·gled; gig·gling** [no *obj*] : to laugh in a nervous or childlike way • She *giggled* like a little kid. • We were all joking and *giggling* nervously as we waited for the ceremony to begin.

– **giggle** *noun*, *pl* **giggles** [count] • trying to suppress a *giggle* • I had an attack of the *giggles*. [=I was unable to stop giggling] • (Brit) Going to the circus would be a bit of a *giggle*. [=would be amusing or enjoyable] – **gig·gly** /'ɡɪɡəli/ *adj* [more ~; most ~] • *giggly* children • a *giggly* laugh

gig·o·lo /'dʒɪɡə,lou/ *noun*, *pl* **-los** [count] : a man who is paid by a woman to be her lover and companion

Gi·la monster /'hi:lə-/ *noun*, *pl* ~ **-sters** [count] : a large orange and black poisonous lizard of the southwestern U.S.

gild /'ɡɪld/ *verb* **gilds; gild·ed** /'ɡɪldəd/ or **gilt** /'ɡɪlt/; **gild·ing** [+ *obj*] : to cover (something) with a thin layer of gold • *gild* a statue

gild the lily : to add decoration to something that is already beautiful : to try to improve something that does not need to be improved • Putting ice cream on this delicious cake is just *gilding the lily*.

– **gilded** *adj* • a *gilded* sculpture/mask/design ♦ A *gilded age* is a time of great success and wealth. The capitalized form *Gilded Age* is used when referring specifically to a period from about 1870–90 in American history. • a novel about life in New York during the *Gilded Age* ♦ *Gilded youth* are wealthy young people who enjoy many things that other people do not have. – **gild·er** *noun*, *pl* **-ers** [count] • a *gilder's* workshop

¹**gill** /'ɡɪl/ *noun*, *pl* **gills** [count] : the body part that a fish uses for breathing

to the gills *informal* 1 : as full as possible • The car was packed *to the gills* for our vacation. 2 : very thoroughly or completely • I'm fed up *to the gills* with his whining! • a theater equipped *to the gills* with new sound equipment – compare ²GILL

²**gill** /'dʒɪl/ *noun*, *pl* **gills** [count] : a unit of liquid measure equal to ¼ pint • He measured out one *gill*. [= (US) four fluid

ounces; (*Brit*) 5 fluid ounces] — compare ¹GILL

¹**gilt** /'gɪlt/ *noun, pl gilts*
1 [*noncount*] : a thin layer of gold or of something like gold • She covered the frame with *gilt*.
2 [*count*] *Brit* : a stock or bond that is considered to be a very safe investment : a gilt-edged security — usually plural • She has/keeps her money in *gilts*.

²**gilt** *adj, always used before a noun*
1 : having a golden color • a *gilt* marble surface • *gilt* paint
2 : covered with gilt • a *gilt* plate • *gilt* buttons

³**gilt** *past tense and past participle of GILD*
gilt-edged /'gɪlt,ɛdʒd/ *adj* : having the best quality or rating • *gilt-edged* securities [=stocks and bonds that are the safest kind of investment]

¹**gim-me** /'ɡɪmi/ — used in writing to represent the sound of the phrase *give me* when it is spoken quickly • Just *gimme* the money. ♦ The pronunciation represented by *gimme* is common in informal speech. The written form should be avoided except when trying to represent or record such speech.

²**gimme** *noun, pl -mes* [*count*] *US, informal* : something that is easily done, achieved, won, etc. • (*golf*) This putt is no *gimme*. [=this is not an easy putt] • They expected the game to be a *gimme*. [=they expected to win the game easily]

gim-mick /'ɡɪmɪk/ *noun, pl -micks* [*count*] *often disapproving* : a method or trick that is used to get people's attention or to sell something • a marketing *gimmick* [=ploy] • The proposal to cut taxes was just an election *gimmick* to win votes.
— **gim-micky** /'ɡɪmɪki/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] • a flashy, *gimmicky* movie with no real substance

gim-mick-ry /'ɡɪmɪkri/ *noun* [*noncount*] *disapproving* : the use of gimmicks • a lot of marketing *gimmickry* and hype

gimpy /'ɡɪmpi/ *adj* **gimp-i-er; -est** [*also more* ~; *most* ~] *US, informal* : having an injury that makes walking difficult or painful • a *gimpy* football player • a *gimpy* leg/foot

gin /'dʒɪn/ *noun, pl gins*
1 [*count, noncount*] : a clear alcoholic drink that is flavored with juniper berries
2 [*noncount*] : GIN RUMMY
— see also COTTON GIN

¹**gin-ger** /'dʒɪndʒə/ *noun* [*noncount*]
1 **a** : the strongly flavored root of a tropical plant that is used in cooking **b** : a spice made from ginger • The recipe calls for a teaspoon of *ginger*.
2 *chiefly Brit* : a light reddish or reddish-brown color
— **ginger** *adj, chiefly Brit* • The child has *ginger* [=reddish-brown] hair. — **gin-gery** /'dʒɪndʒəri/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] • a *gingery* sauce

²**ginger** *verb -gers; -gered; -ger-ing*
ginger up [*phrasal verb*] *ginger up* (someone or something) or *ginger* (someone or something) *up* *Brit, informal* : to make (someone or something) more exciting or lively • *ginger* a group *up* by proposing a new strategy

ginger ale *noun, pl ~ ales* [*count, noncount*] : a soft drink that is flavored with ginger

gin-ger-bread /'dʒɪndʒə,bred/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a cake or cookie made with molasses and ginger — often used before another noun • *gingerbread* cookies • We made *gingerbread men* [=gingerbread cookies shaped like people] for the holidays. • a *gingerbread house* decorated with candy

ginger group *noun, pl ~ groups* [*count*] *Brit* : a group that is part of a larger group (such as a political party) and that tries to make other members accept and support their ideas • a left-wing *ginger group* within the Labour Party

gin-ger-ly /'dʒɪndʒəli/ *adv* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : very carefully • She *gingerly* placed the cake down on the table. • It's a delicate subject, and we need to approach it *gingerly*.

gin-ger-snap /'dʒɪndʒə,snæp/ *noun, pl -snaps* [*count*] : a hard cookie that is flavored with ginger — called also (*Brit*) *ginger nut*

ging-ham /'ɡɪŋəm/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a cotton cloth that often is marked with a pattern of colored squares • a red and white *gingham* tablecloth

gin-gi-vi-tis /,dʒɪndʒə'vɪtəs/ *noun* [*noncount*] *medical* : a disease in which the gums become red, swollen, and sore

gink-go *also* **ging-ko** /'ɡɪŋkou/ *noun, pl -goes or -gos* *also -koes or -kos* [*count*] : a large Chinese tree that has fan-shaped leaves

ginkgo bi-lo-ba /-,baɪ'loubə/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a product made from the leaves of the ginkgo tree that is used as a medicine

gin rummy *noun* [*noncount*] : a card game that is played by

two players who are each dealt 10 cards

gin-seng /'dʒɪn,sɛŋ/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a Chinese herb that is used as a medicine

Gipsy *variant spelling of GYPSY*

gi-raffe /dʒə'ræf, *Brit* dʒə'rɑ:f/ *noun, pl gi-raffes or giraffe* [*count*] : a very tall African animal that has an extremely long neck and legs

gird /'ɡɜd/ *verb* **girds; gird-ed** /'ɡɜdəd/ *also* **girt** /'ɡɜt/; **gird-ing** : to prepare yourself to fight or to do something difficult — usually + *for* [*no obj*] Both sides are *girding for* battle. [+ *obj*] Both sides are *girding themselves for* battle. • The company is *girding (up) its loins for* what could be a long strike.

gird-er /'ɡɜdə/ *noun, pl -ers* [*count*] : a strong beam used to build buildings, bridges, etc.

¹**gir-dle** /'ɡɜdl/ *noun, pl gir-dles* [*count*] : something that wraps or circles around something else; *specifically* : a tight piece of clothing worn especially in the past by women under other clothes to make the area around the waist look thinner

²**girdle** *verb* **girdles; gir-dled; gir-dling** [+ *obj*] *formal* : to form a circle around (something) or to surround (something) • the rings that *girdle* the planet Saturn

girl /'ɡɜl/ *noun, pl girls*
¹ [*count*] **a** : a female child • It's a *girl*! = She gave birth to a baby *girl*. • a nine-year-old *girl* • Ever since I was a (little/young) *girl*, I've wanted to travel. **b** : DAUGHTER • Is this your little *girl*? • She's our oldest/youngest *girl*.
2 [*count*] **a** : a young woman • a group of teenage *girls* • a 19-year-old *girl* • His parents hope he'll soon find a nice *girl*, settle down, and get married. • When she was younger, she was a real *party girl*. [=a young woman who enjoys parties] • She's a big star now, but her fans still think of her as the *girl next door*. [=a wholesome young woman from a middle-class family] **b** : a usually young woman from a specified kind of place • a city/country *girl* = a *girl* from the city/country • a local/hometown *girl*
3 *informal* **a the girls** : the female friends or work partners of a woman viewed as a group • Wait till *the girls* back home hear about this! • Our boss thinks of herself as just one of *the girls*. • She went out dancing with *the girls*. **b** [*count*] : a woman of any age — often used as a friendly way for one woman to address another woman • *Girl*, you will not believe what just happened to me! **c** [*count*] : a woman or girl who does a particular job or activity • a shop *girl* • They just hired a new *girl* to do the filing. ♦ The use of *girl* to refer to an adult woman is often considered offensive, especially when it is used this way by a man. — see also BALL GIRL, CALL GIRL, CHORUS GIRL, COVER GIRL, OFFICE GIRL, PAPER-GIRL, POSTER GIRL, SCHOOLGIRL
4 [*count*] *informal + old-fashioned* : GIRLFRIEND • I took my *girl* out to the movies last night.
— **girl-hood** /'ɡɜl,hud/ *noun* [*noncount*] • She lost touch with the friends of her *girlhood*. • her *girlhood* friends
— **girl-ish** /'ɡɜlɪʃ/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] • a *girlish* voice • her *girlish* figure — **girl-ish-ly** *adv* • She smiled *girlishly* at him. — **girl-ish-ness** *noun* [*noncount*] • the *girlishness* of her voice/figure

girl Friday *noun, pl ~ -days* [*count*] *informal + old-fashioned* : a woman who does many different jobs in an office : a female office assistant

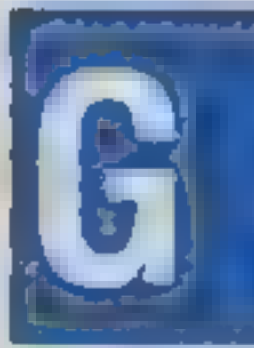
girl-friend /'ɡɜl,frend/ *noun, pl -friends* [*count*]
1 : a woman that someone is having a romantic or sexual relationship with • My *girlfriend* and I have only been dating for a couple of months. — compare BOYFRIEND
2 : a female friend • She spends hours talking on the phone with her *girlfriends*.

Girl Guide *noun, pl ~ Guides* [*count*] : a member of a worldwide organization for girls ages 7 through 18 that is similar to the Girl Scouts in the United States — called also *Guide*

girl-ie *also* **girly** /'ɡɜli/ *adj*
1 *always used before a noun* : featuring attractive young women who are wearing little or no clothing • a *girlie* show/magazine
2 : having a quality that is considered suitable for girls or



giraffe



women and not suitable for men or boys • She likes to wear *girlie* pink dresses. • a *girlie* voice

Girl Scout *noun, pl ~ Scouts* [count] : a member of a U.S. organization for girls ages 5 through 17 ♦ Girl Scouts participate in group activities, learn skills, and are encouraged to have good morals and be good citizens. — called also *Scout*; compare BOY SCOUT, BROWNIE, CUB SCOUT, GIRL GUIDE

gi-ro /'dʒiə,ou, Brit 'dʒajə,rəu/ *noun, pl -ros* [count] *Brit* : a check paid by the government to someone who is sick or does not have a job

girt *past participle of GIRD*

girth /'gəθ/ *noun, pl girths*

1 : the size of someone or something measured around the middle [noncount] The tree is about two meters in *girth*. • a person of large *girth* [count] a *girth* of about two meters

2 [count] : a band or strap placed around the body of an animal (such as a horse) to hold something (such as a saddle) on its back

gist /'dʒɪst/ *noun*

the gist : the general or basic meaning of something said or written — usually + *of* • The *gist* of her argument was that the law was unfair. • I didn't read the whole article, but I *got the gist* of it. [=I understood the main points of it]

git /'ɡɪt/ *noun, pl gits* [count] *Brit slang* : a stupid or worthless person (especially a man) • That *git* of a brother of yours has ruined everything!

give /'ɡɪv/ *verb gives; gave* /'geɪv/; **giv-en** /'ɡɪvən/; **giv-ing**

1 [+ *obj*] **a** : to cause or allow someone to have (something) as a present : to make a present of (something) • She *gave* him a camera for Christmas. • Someone *gave* me a present. = Someone *gave* a present to me. = I was *given* a present. = A present was *given* (to) me. • Are you *giving* this to me or only lending it? **b** : to cause or allow (something valued or needed) to go to another person, group, etc. : **DONATE** [+ *obj*] She has *given* money to many worthy/good causes. • They're asking people to *give* money for a new hospital. • *give* blood [no *obj*] Please *give* to our charity. • We already *gave* at the office. • It is better to *give* than to receive.

2 [+ *obj*] : to put (something) into someone's hand • He picked up the letter and *gave* [=handed] it to me. • He *gave* me the letter. : to cause someone to hold or possess (something) for a specified reason • He *gave* me a letter to mail for him. = He *gave* a letter to me to mail for him. • He *gave* her his coat to hold.

3 [+ *obj*] **a** : to provide someone with (something wanted or needed) • She has *given* me a lot of help/support/encouragement. [=she has helped/supported/encouraged me a lot] • They *gave* me a job. [=they hired me] • He *gave* me a head start. • I'll *give* you a lift/ride to the station. [=I'll drive you to the station in my car] : to allow someone to have (something wanted or needed) • I know I can do it if you'll just *give* me a chance. • They *gave* her another opportunity. • Her boss has *given* her a lot of responsibility/authority. • They *gave* him the best room available. • The law *gives* all citizens the right to vote. = The law *gives* the right to vote to all citizens. **b** : to allow someone to have or take (an amount of time) • Just *give* me a few more minutes and I'll be ready. • The doctor *gave* him two weeks to pay his bill.

4 [+ *obj*] **a** : to treat or regard someone or something with (a particular attitude, feeling, etc.) • She *gave* her friend her complete confidence. = She *gave* her complete confidence to her friend. [=she trusted her friend completely] • He *gave* the company his loyalty. [=he was loyal to the company] • They've worked hard. You should *give* them some respect. [=you should respect them] **b** : to direct (something) toward someone • She *gave* him an angry look. [=she looked at him angrily] • He *gave* her a smile. [=he smiled at her]

5 [+ *obj*] **a** : to tell (information) to someone • Just *give* me the facts. • They weren't able to *give* us the information we needed. • The witness was reluctant to *give* evidence. • He *gave* his name as "John Smith." [=he said his name was "John Smith"] • The drawing *gives* [=shows] the dimensions of the room. • The book *gives* [=provides] a brief history of the industry. **b** : to express or say (something) to someone • You have no right to *give* me orders. • They *gave* him careful instructions on how to proceed. • *Give* them my regards. = *Give* my regards to them. • His parents *gave* him a lecture about the importance of studying. • The coach *gave* the team a pep talk. • I *give* you my word [=I swear; I promise], I knew nothing about their plans. • Just *give* it to me straight [=just say what you are going to say to me in a direct way] ♦ The infor-

mal phrase *don't give me that* is used in speech to show annoyance when someone tells you something that you do not believe or accept. • "It's not my fault that we're late." "Don't *give me that!*" You were the one who said we didn't have to leave early!" **c** : to show (something) • a young artist who has *given* evidence/signs of real talent • She *gave* (us) no hint/indication that she was upset or worried. **d** : to offer (something) for consideration or acceptance • He declined to *give* an opinion. • Can you *give* an example? • He *gave* no reason for his absence.

6 [+ *obj*] : to say that someone has or deserves (something) • He *gives* the credit for his success to his wife. [=he credits his wife for his success]

7 [+ *obj*] **a** : to cause someone to have or experience (something, such as an emotion, a problem, etc.) • My car has been *giving* [=causing] me a lot of trouble lately. • I like Mexican food, but it *gives* me indigestion. • a book that *gives* pleasure to the reader • All that noise is *giving* me a headache. [=I'm getting a headache from all that noise] • It *gave* me a shock to see how sick he is. • Her encouragement *gave* me a lot of self-confidence. [=made me feel very self-confident] **b** : to cause someone to become affected by (something, such as an illness) • His sister *gave* him the measles. [=he got/caught the measles from his sister] • Hearing the joke *gave* him the giggles. [=hearing the joke made him giggle] **c** : to cause someone or something to have (a quality) • His quiet manner *gives* him a mysterious air. • The large windows *give* the room an open feeling. **d** : to cause something to be affected by (something) • He argues that the tax cuts would *give* a considerable stimulus/boost to the economy.

8 [+ *obj*] : to cause someone to get or take (a medicine) • The doctor *gave* the patient a pill. • The doctor *gave* him an injection. • The drug is usually *given* intravenously.

9 [+ *obj*] **a** : to present (a show, speech, etc.) in public • *give* a concert/lecture/talk/speech/reading/performance **b** : to provide (something) as entertainment or as a social gathering • *give* [=throw] a party • *give* a formal dinner

10 [+ *obj*] : to do (an action) • She *gave* the door a push. [=she pushed the door] • He *gave* her a hug. [=he hugged her] • He *gave* a cynical smile. [=he smiled cynically] • She picked up the package and *gave* it a shake. [=she shook the package] • The referee *gave* [=made] the signal to start the game. • The ship *gave* a sudden lurch. [=the ship lurched suddenly]

11 [+ *obj*] **a** : to cause someone to experience or suffer (a form of punishment) • His father *gave* the boy a whipping. • The judge *gave* him life (imprisonment) for murder. **b** : to cause someone to undergo or do (something) • The teacher *gave* the class a test.

12 ♦ To *give something thought/consideration* (etc.) is to think about it. • We've *given* your proposal a lot of thought and careful consideration. [=we've thought about your proposal a lot and considered it carefully]

13 ♦ To *give someone a call/ring/buzz/bell* is to make a telephone call to someone. • I'll *give* you a call later.

14 ♦ If you try to do something, you *give it a try* or (informally) *give it a go/shot/stab*. • I've never gone skiing before, but I'm willing to *give it a try*.

15 ♦ If you would *give anything* or *give your right hand/arm* to do or to have something, you want to do or have it very much. • I'd *give anything* to be able to sing like that!

16 [+ *obj*] : to make (something, such as your hand) available for someone • She *gave* [=offered] her hand to him to shake/kiss. = She *gave* him her hand to shake/kiss. [=she held out her hand toward him so that he could shake/kiss it] • She *gave* him her arm [=she linked her arm in his arm] and they walked together into the room. ♦ When a woman *gives her hand in marriage* to a man, she marries him. This is a formal and somewhat old-fashioned expression.

17 [+ *obj*] **a** : **PAY** • I wouldn't *give* a penny for that old bike! • If you have an extra ticket, I'll *give* you \$20 for it. **b** : **SELL** • I'm willing to *give* you the ticket for \$20.

18 [+ *obj*] : to say or judge that someone or something will last for (an amount of time) • The doctor *gave* him only a few weeks to live. [=the doctor said that he would live for only a few weeks] • Their marriage will never work. I *give* it/them six months—tops!

19 [+ *obj*] *informal* : to admit (something) to or about someone • He made an effort, I'll *give* him that (much). [=I'll admit that he made an effort] • I don't really like his movies, but he's a talented actor, I'll *give* you that [=I admit that he is a talented actor]

20 [+ *obj*] : to have or produce (something) as a product, re-

sult, or effect • medical procedures that *give* better results • Cows *give* milk.

21 [+ *obj*] *formal* : to cause someone to believe or think (something) — followed by *to* + *verb* • They *gave* [=led] me *to understand* that they'd be arriving later. ♦ To *give someone an idea/impression (etc.)* is to cause someone to believe or think something. • Whatever *gave you the idea* (that) he loved you?! [=whatever made you think that he loved you?] • I'm sorry if I *gave you the wrong impression*. [=I'm sorry if I misled you; I'm sorry if you got the wrong impression from me] • I don't know what *gave her the notion* that she could treat people that way.

22 [*no obj*] **a** : to bend because of force, pressure, or strain • The branch *gave* [=sagged] under his weight, but it didn't break. **b** : to break because of force, pressure, or strain • The branch suddenly *gave* [=gave way] under his weight, and he fell to the ground.

23 [*no obj*] : to stop trying to resist or oppose something : to give in or submit to pressure • Both sides refuse to *give* [=refuse to accept or agree to the demands of the other side] in this dispute. • For the strike to be settled, *something has (got) to give!* [=one side or the other has to give in]

24 [+ *obj*] **a** — used to indicate a possible or assumed state or condition • *Give him his books and his music and he's happy.* [=he is happy if he has his books and his music] • (If) *Given* better conditions, she'd do the work even better. = She'd do the work even better (if) *given* better conditions. = If she were *given* better conditions, she'd do the work even better. **b** — used to say what you want to have or would prefer to have • "... *give me liberty, or give me death!*" [=I would rather die than live without liberty] —Patrick Henry, Speech (1775) • The country's OK—but *give me the city any day!* [=I prefer the city]

25 [+ *obj*] *informal* — used in phrases like *give a damn* to say that you do not care at all about something • He angrily told her that he didn't *give a damn* what she did.

give as good as you get informal : to be as forceful in fighting or arguing against others as they are in fighting or arguing against you • She can *give as good as she gets* in an argument with just about anybody.

give away [phrasal verb] **1** *give (something) away or give away (something)* **a** : to make a present of (something) • For a limited time only our store is *giving away* [=giving] a free can of soda to each and every one of our customers! • Our prices are so cheap we're practically *giving away* everything in our store! **b** : to lose (something) in a careless way • He virtually *gave* the election *away* when he made a racist remark. • The pitcher *gave* the game *away* by walking four batters in a row. **c** : to allow (something hidden or secret) to become known • The way she looked at him *gave away* her real feelings for him. • Please don't *give away* [=reveal] how the trick is done. — see also GIVEAWAY, GIVEAWAY PRICE, *give the game away* at ¹GAME **2** *give (someone) away also give away (someone)* **a** : to bring (the bride) to the groom at a wedding • Traditionally, it's the father of the bride who *gives* his daughter *away* at the wedding. **b** : to reveal the truth about (someone) • His fellow conspirators *gave* him *away* to the police. [=they betrayed him to the police] • His accent *gave* him *away* as a northerner. [=his accent showed that he was a northerner]

give back [phrasal verb] *give (something) back or give back (something)* : to cause someone to have (something) again : to return or restore (something) to someone • He *gave back* the money he found to the person who'd lost it. • Her encouragement helped to *give me back* my self-confidence. [=her encouragement helped me to get my self-confidence back] • They agreed to *give* him his old job *back*. — see also GIVEBACK

give birth see BIRTH

give chase see ¹CHASE

give ground see ¹GROUND

give in [phrasal verb] **1** : to stop trying to fight or resist something : to agree to do or accept something that you have been resisting or opposing • The strike has been going on for weeks, and neither side seems willing to *give in*. — often + *to* • He refused to *give in to* their demands. [=he refused to do what they demanded that he do] **2** *give (something) in or give in (something)* *Brit* : to give (something) to a person who has authority to review or accept it • *give in* [= (US) hand in] an assignment

give it a rest, give (something) a rest see ²REST

give me a break, give (someone) a break see ²BREAK

give of [phrasal verb] *give of yourself or give of your time*

formal : to use your time and effort to help others • They freely *gave of their time* when their help was needed.

give off [phrasal verb] *give off (something)* : to send (light, energy, etc.) out from a source • The telescope can detect light *given off* [=emitted] by distant galaxies. • The garbage *gave off* an unpleasant smell. • The chimneys *gave off* thick, black smoke.

give on to also give onto [phrasal verb] *give on to (something) also give onto (something)* *Brit* : to provide a view of or a passage to (something) • The door *gives* directly *on to* the garden. • The rooms *give onto* a hall.

give or take — used to indicate that the stated amount is approximate and might be increased or decreased by a specified amount • He ran a mile, *give or take* a few yards. • The movie lasted three hours, *give or take* a few minutes either way. • (*informal*) He ran a mile, *give or take*. [=he ran about a mile]

give out [phrasal verb] **1** : to stop working • The plane's engine sputtered and *gave out*, forcing an emergency landing. • His voice *gave out*. [=he was unable to talk] • His courage finally *gave out*. [=he lost his courage] **2** : to become used up • Our supply of fuel had almost *given out* [=run out] entirely. **3** *give out (something)* : to produce (noise, light, etc.) • The brakes *gave out* a loud squeal. • The woodstove *gives out* a lot of heat. **4** *give (something) out or give out (something)* : to give (something) to many people : to hand out (something) • They *gave out* copies of the newsletter. • He's always *giving out* unwanted advice.

give over [phrasal verb] *Brit, informal* : to stop doing something that is annoying or unpleasant • Oh, *give over!* I'm tired of your complaints! — often + *-ing verb* • They eventually *gave over* *bothering* me [=stopped bothering me] and let me alone.

give over to [phrasal verb] *give (something) over to (someone)* **1** : to give (something) to (someone) to have, use, do, etc. • She has *given* most of her work *over to* her assistant. **2** *give (yourself) over to (something)* : to allow (yourself) to be fully affected by, controlled by, or involved in (something) • He *gave himself over to* despair. [=he was overcome by despair] • She *gave herself over* completely *to* her work. [=she devoted all of her attention and energy to her work] **3** ♦ Something that is *given over to* a specified purpose is used for that purpose. • One of the upstairs rooms is *given over to* storage. • Much of her time recently has been *given over to* researching her family history.

give place to see ¹PLACE

give rise to see ²RISE

give up [phrasal verb] **1** : to stop an activity or effort : to admit that you cannot do something and stop trying : QUIT • He vowed that he would never *give up*. • I *give up!* I don't know what more I can do to please my girlfriend! • "How many prime numbers are there between 1 and 100? Well, do you *give up?*" "OK, I *give up!*" **2** *give (something) up or give up (something)* **a** : to stop having, doing, or using (something) • He was forced to *give up* his job. • She refused to *give up* trying. • My doctor urged me to *give up* smoking/cigarettes. • Rescuers have not yet *given up* hope that more survivors will be found. • He *gave up* his seat to an elderly woman. [=he got out of his seat so that an elderly woman could sit there] **b** : to stop trying to do (something) • We did our best to repair the engine, but in the end we had to *give it up* as impossible. **c** *sports* : to allow (a score, a hit, etc.) by an opposing team or player • The defense *gave up* two touchdowns in the first quarter. • The pitcher didn't *give up* a hit till the ninth inning. **3** *give (yourself) up* : to surrender (yourself) as a prisoner • The fugitive eventually *gave himself up* (to the police/authorities). **4** *give (someone) up* **a** : to stop trying to improve the condition of (someone) because it seems hopeless • The teacher *gave* him *up* as a hopeless case. • The doctors *gave him up for dead*. [=the doctors said that he was certain to die] **b** : to stop having hope of seeing (someone) • We'd *given you up* (for lost) hours ago! **5** *give (yourself) up to (something)* : to allow (yourself) to be fully affected by, controlled by, or involved in (something) • He *gave himself up to* despair. • She *gave herself up* completely *to* her work. **6** *give up on (someone)* **a** : to stop trying to improve the condition of (someone) • He has gotten in trouble many times, but his parents have never *given up on* him. • Please don't *give up on* me. I promise I'll do better. **b** : to stop having hope of seeing (someone) • We'd *given up on* you hours ago! **7** *give up on (something)* : to stop trying to do

or achieve (something) • They have *given up on* their plan to build a new factory. • She hasn't *given up on* trying to convince her husband to buy a new car.

give up the ghost see ¹GHOST

give way see ¹WAY

What gives? *informal* — used to ask the reason for something • You've been acting weird all week. *What gives?* [=why are you acting weird?]

²**give** *noun* [noncount] : the ability of a material to bend or stretch • This fabric has a lot of *give*. [=this fabric is very flexible]

give-and-take /ˌɡɪvənˈteɪk/ *noun* [noncount]

1 : the process by which people reach an agreement with each other by giving up something that was wanted and agreeing to some of the things wanted by the other person • A successful marriage requires a lot of *give-and-take* between husband and wife.

2 *US* : the act or process of exchanging ideas or comments • She enjoys a lot of friendly *give-and-take* with her customers.

give-away /ˈɡɪvəˌweɪ/ *noun*, *pl* -aways

1 [singular] : something (such as a movement or a facial expression) that clearly shows the truth or existence of something that had not been known • The way she looked at him was a *dead giveaway* that they were more than just friends.

2 [count] **a** : something that is given away free • The store is offering coffee mugs as free *giveaways* to attract new customers. **b** : an event at which things are given away • The store is staging a promotional *giveaway* to attract new customers. — see also *give away* at ¹GIVE

giveaway price *noun*, *pl* ~ prices [count] : a very low price • We're selling everything in our store at low, low *giveaway prices*.

give-back /ˈɡɪvˌbæk/ *noun*, *pl* -backs [count] *US, business* : a previous gain (such as increased wages or benefits) that is given back to a company by workers as part of an agreement • The union had to agree to certain *givebacks* in order to save the jobs of all its members. — see also *give back* at ¹GIVE

¹**given** /ˈɡɪvən/ *adj* — used to refer to a particular time, place, etc., that has been, will be, or might be specified • You'll have to finish the exam within a *given* (amount of) time. • They agreed to meet again at a *given* location. • Climate has a great effect on the types of plants found in any *given* area. • You never know what might happen on any *given* night.

given to — used to say that a person often behaves in a specified way • a man (very) much *given to* swearing/profanity [=a man who swears often] • She is *given to* behaving selfishly. = She is *given to* selfishness.

take (something) as given : to regard or accept (something) as true or real • I think we can *take* their support *as given*. = I think we can *take* (it) *as given* that they will support us. [=I think we can assume that they will support us]

²**given** *noun*, *pl* -ens [count] : something that is regarded or accepted as true or real : a basic fact or assumption • In our system it is a *given* that all are equal before the law. • I think we can *take* (it) *as a given* that they will support us.

³**given** *prep* — used to indicate something that is being assumed or considered • *Given* the bad conditions under which the work was done, she has done it very well. = *Given* the fact that the work was done under bad conditions, she has done it very well. • *Given* a value of 5 for x, what is 2x? — often used in the phrase *given that* • Even *given that* the house is not in perfect condition, it's still a great buy!

given name *noun*, *pl* ~ names [count] *US* : FIRST NAME

giv-er /ˈɡɪvər/ *noun*, *pl* -ers [count] : someone who gives something to another person • a *giver* of orders • a *giver* of unwanted advice — often used in combination • caregivers

giz-mo /ˈɡɪzˌmoʊ/ *noun*, *pl* -mos [count] *informal* : a usually small mechanical or electronic device : GADGET • He broke the *gizmo* he uses to open and close his garage door.

giz-zard /ˈɡɪzəd/ *noun*, *pl* -zards [count] : a part in the stomach of a bird in which food is broken down into small pieces

glacial /ˈɡleɪʃəl/ *adj*

1 : of or relating to glaciers • *glacial* flow/ice : produced or caused by glaciers • a *glacial* lake • *glacial* erosion

2 [more ~; most ~] : very cold : FRIGID • a *glacial* wind — sometimes used figuratively • a *glacial* stare

3 [more ~; most ~] : very slow • Progress on the bill has been *glacial*. • a *glacial* pace

— **glacial-ly** *adv* • *glacially* slow progress

glacier /ˈɡleɪʃər, Brit ˈɡlæsiər/ *noun*, *pl* -ciers [count] : a very

large area of ice that moves slowly down a slope or valley or over a wide area of land

glad /ˈɡlæd/ *adj* **glad-der**; -dest [also more ~; most ~]

1 *not used before a noun* : feeling pleasure, joy, or delight • We're *glad* [=happy] that he won. • We're *glad* you could come. • I'm *glad* (that) things turned out so well. = I'm *glad* about how things turned out. — sometimes + *of* • She was *glad of* [=grateful for] the help her brother provided. — sometimes + *for* • I'm *glad for* the chance to help. — sometimes followed by *to* + *verb* • I'm so *glad to see* you! • I'm *glad to have* the chance to help.

2 *not used before a noun* : very willing to do something • I'll be *glad to answer* any questions you may have. • I'd be (only too) *glad to lend* you the money.

3 *always used before a noun, old-fashioned* : causing happiness and joy : PLEASANT • The mail brought *glad news/tidings* from our friends in England. • We've been through some sad times and some *glad* times.

— **glad-ly** *adv* • I'll *gladly* answer any questions you may have. • “Will you take questions from the audience?”

“*Gladly!*” — **glad-ness** *noun* [noncount] • The news of their wedding fills my heart with *gladness*.

glad-den /ˈɡlædn/ *verb* -dens; -dened; -den-ing [+ *obj*] *old-fashioned* : to make (someone) glad • We were *gladdened* by the news. = It *gladdened* us to hear the news. • Her news will *gladden the hearts* of her family and friends. [=will make her family and friends happy]

glade /ˈɡleɪd/ *noun*, *pl* **glades** [count] : a grassy open space in a forest

glad-hand /ˈɡlædˌhænd/ *verb* -hands; -hand-ed; -hand-ing [+ *obj*] : to give a friendly welcome or greeting to (people) as a way of getting approval • politicians *glad-handing* voters

glad-i-a-tor /ˈɡlædiˌeɪtər/ *noun*, *pl* -tors [count] : a man in ancient Rome who fought against another man or animal for public entertainment

— **glad-i-a-to-ri-al** /ˌɡlædijəˈtorijəl/ *adj* • *gladiatorial* combat

glad-i-o-lus /ˌɡlædiˈoʊləs/ *noun*, *pl* **glad-i-o-li** /ˌɡlædiˈoʊli/ or **glad-i-o-lus-es** or *US gladiolus* [count] : a plant with long, stiff leaves and brightly colored flowers

glad rags *noun* [plural] chiefly *Brit, informal + old-fashioned* : a person's best clothes • He put on his *glad rags* to go to the party.

glam /ˈɡlæm/ *adj* [more ~; most ~] *informal* : GLAMOROUS • *glam celebrities*

glam-or-ize also *Brit glam-or-ise* /ˈɡlæməˌraɪz/ *verb* -izes; -ized; -iz-ing [+ *obj*] : to make (something) seem exciting and attractive • The movie was criticized for *glamorizing* crime and violence. • a novel that *glamorizes* war

glam-or-ous /ˈɡlæməˌrəs/ *adj* [more ~; most ~] : very exciting and attractive : full of glamour • She looked *glamorous* in her formal black gown. • She wore a *glamorous* black gown. • *glamorous* movie stars • A private investigator's job isn't as *glamorous* as people think.

— **glam-or-ous-ly** *adv*

glam-our also *US glam-or* /ˈɡlæmə/ *noun* [noncount] : a very exciting and attractive quality • She left her hometown, attracted to the *glamour* of the big city. • an acting career filled with glitz and *glamour* • the *glamour* of the movie business • She's a serious actress and not just another *glamour girl* [=a beautiful woman who wears sexy and attractive clothing and makeup] • He's one of the *glamour boys* of the football league. [=he's a very popular and attractive player who gets a lot of attention]

glam-our-puss /ˈɡlæməˌpus/ *noun*, *pl* -puss-es [count] *informal + disapproving* : a person (especially a woman) who is very attractive but not talented, smart, serious, etc. • a self-absorbed *glamour-puss* • a *glamour-puss* celebrity

¹**glance** /ˈɡlæns, Brit ˈɡlɑːns/ *verb* **glanc-es**; **glanced**; **glanc-ing** [no *obj*]

1 *always followed by an adverb or preposition* : to look at someone or something very quickly • *Glancing* down, she noticed her shoe was untied. • I *glanced* at my watch. • He sat quietly, *glancing* through a magazine. • She *glanced* up from her book when he entered the room.

2 : to hit something and bounce off at an angle — usually + *off* • The arrow *glanced off* the shield. • Sunlight *glanced off* the surface of the pond.

— **glanc-ing** /ˈɡlænsɪŋ, Brit ˈɡlɑːnsɪŋ/ *adj*, *always used before a noun* • A rock struck the windshield with a *glancing blow* [=a rock glanced off the windshield]

²**glance** *noun, pl glances* [count] : a quick look • They exchanged *glances*. [=looked at each other quickly] • He gave me a quick/passing *glance* over his shoulder. • I took/had a *glance* at the newspaper this morning. • He stole/darted a *glance* at her [=he looked at her quickly] as she walked by.
at a glance : with a quick look • She was able to identify the problem *at a glance*.

at first glance see ¹FIRST

gland /'glænd/ *noun, pl glands* [count] : an organ in the body that makes a substance (such as saliva, sweat, or bile) which is used by the body • sweat *glands* • the pituitary *gland*

glandular /'glændʒələ/ *adj* : of or relating to glands • *glandular* activity/cancer

glandular fever *noun* [noncount] chiefly Brit, medical : MONONUCLEOSIS

¹**glare** /'gleə/ *verb* **glares; glared; glar-ing** [no obj]

1 : to shine with a harsh, bright light • The sun *glared* down relentlessly. • The white snow *glared* in the morning sunlight.

2 : to look directly at someone in an angry way • The teacher *glared* at him as he walked in late. **synonyms** see ¹GAZE

²**glare** *noun, pl glares*

1 : a harsh, bright light [singular] There was a *glare* coming off the water. [noncount] I was blinded by the *glare* of the approaching headlights. • I shielded my eyes from/against the *glare* of the sun. • The car's headlights are designed to cut down on *glare*. — sometimes used figuratively to suggest the idea of a very bright light shining on someone who is being given a lot of public attention • He grew tired of living in the *glare* of the television cameras. • After the success of her first film, she could not escape *the glare of publicity*.

2 [count] : an angry look • She responded to the reporters' questions with an angry/icy *glare*.

glaring /'gləriŋ/ *adj*

1 [more ~; most ~] : very obvious or noticeable • a *glaring* mistake/error/omission • a *glaring* example of racism

2 : shining with a harsh, bright light • the *glaring* noonday sun

3 : having a look of anger • *glaring* eyes

— **glar-ing-ly** *adv* • a *glaringly* obvious mistake

¹**glass** /'glæs, Brit 'glɑ:s/ *noun, pl glass-es*

1 [noncount] : a hard usually transparent material that is used for making windows and other products • He broke the *glass*. — often used before another noun • a *glass* bowl/bottle — see also PLATE GLASS, STAINED GLASS

2 [count] **a** : a drinking container made out of glass • The waiter filled our *glasses* with water. • an elegant wine *glass* ♦ The expression *raise a glass* or *raise your glasses* is used to tell people to hold up their glasses and drink a toast as a way to wish someone happiness, success, etc. **b** : the amount held by a glass container • She drank two *glasses* of water.

3 *glasses* [plural] : a pair of glass or plastic lenses set into a frame and worn over the eyes to help a person see • I have to wear *glasses* [=spectacles, (US) eyeglasses] for reading. = I have to wear reading *glasses*. • She was wearing dark *glasses* with thick black frames. • horn-rimmed *glasses* — see also FIELD GLASSES, MAGNIFYING GLASS, OPERA GLASSES

people who live in glass houses shouldn't throw stones — used to say that people who have faults should not criticize other people for having the same faults

under glass : in a glass container • Most of the articles in the museum are preserved *under glass*.

— see also HOURGLASS, LOOKING GLASS

— **glass-ful** /'glæs,fʊl, Brit 'glas,fʊl/ *noun, pl -fuls* [count] • had another *glassful* [=more commonly, *glass*] of beer

²**glass** *verb* **glasses; glassed; glass-ing** [+ obj] : to fit, protect, or enclose (something) with glass — usually + *in* • The porch is *glassed in*.

glass-blow-ing /'glæs,bləʊɪŋ, Brit 'glɑ:s,bləʊɪŋ/ *noun* [noncount] : the art of shaping a piece of hot, melted glass by blowing air into it through a tube

— **glass-blow-er** /'glæs,bləʊə, Brit 'glɑ:s,bləʊə/ *noun, pl -ers* [count]

glass ceiling *noun, pl ~ -ings* [count] : an unfair system or set of attitudes that prevents some people (such as women or people of a certain race) from getting the most powerful jobs — usually singular • women executives trying to break through the *glass ceiling*

glass-mak-er /'glæs,meɪkə, Brit 'glɑ:s,meɪkə/ *noun, pl -ers* [count] : a person who makes glass

glass-ware /'glæs,weə, Brit 'glɑ:s,weə/ *noun* [noncount] : things made of glass • a cabinet that holds *glassware*

glassy /'glæsi, Brit 'glɑ:si/ *adj* **glass-i-er; -est**

1 : smooth and shiny : resembling glass • the *glassy* surface of the lake • a hard, *glassy* substance

2 : not shiny or bright : dull and lifeless • *glassy* eyes • He was gazing out the window with a *glassy* stare.

glau-co-ma /glau'koumə, gla'koumə/ *noun* [noncount] *medical* : a disease in which pressure inside the eye causes gradual loss of vision

¹**glaze** /'gleɪz/ *verb* **glaz-es; glazed; glaz-ing**

1 [+ obj] : to give a smooth and shiny coating to (something) • The storm *glazed* the trees with ice. • *Glaze* the tart with melted jam. • *glazed* ceramic pots • a *glazed* doughnut [=a doughnut with a smooth, sugary coating]

2 [no obj] : to become dull and lifeless — usually + *over* • His eyes *glazed over* [=he began to look very bored and tired] as the speech droned on.

²**glaze** *noun, pl glazes* : a liquid mixture that is put on the surface of something and that becomes shiny and smooth when it is dry [count] The pot is covered with a bright red *glaze*. • doughnuts with a chocolate *glaze* [noncount] The pot needs more *glaze*.

glaz-ier /'gleɪzə, Brit 'gleɪziə/ *noun, pl -ziers* [count] : a person who puts glass in window frames

¹**gleam** /'gli:m/ *noun, pl gleams*

1 [count] : a small, bright light • He saw the *gleam* of a flash-light in the distance.

2 [singular] : a bright or shining quality • the rich *gleam* of the polished wood

3 [count] : a small amount or sign of something • a *gleam* [=glimmer] of hope

4 [count] : a small amount of emotion (such as happiness or excitement) that can be seen in someone's eyes • Her father had a *gleam* in his eyes as he told the story.

²**gleam** *verb* **gleams; gleamed; gleam-ing** [no obj] : to shine brightly • The sun *gleamed* on the water. • His eyes were *gleaming* with delight.

glean /'gli:n/ *verb* **gleans; gleaned; glean-ing**

1 [+ obj] **a** : to gather or collect (something) in a gradual way • She *gleaned* her data from various studies. • He has a collection of antique tools *gleaned* from flea markets and garage sales. **b** : to search (something) carefully • They spent days *gleaning* the files for information.

2 : to gather grain or other material that is left after the main crop has been gathered [no obj] They spent hours *gleaning* in the wheat fields. [+ obj] *gleaning* stray ears of corn • *gleaning* a vineyard

— **glean-er** *noun, pl -ers* [count]

glean-ings /'gli:nɪŋz/ *noun* [plural] : information, grain, etc., that is gathered • the *gleanings* of long hours of research

glee /'gli:/ *noun* [noncount] : a strong feeling of happiness : great pleasure or satisfaction • They were dancing with/in *glee*. • He could hardly contain his *glee* over his victory.

— **glee-ful** /'gli:fəl/ *adj* [more ~; most ~] • a *gleeful* smile

— **glee-ful-ly** /'gli:fəli/ *adv* • smiling *gleefully*

glee club *noun, pl ~ clubs* [count] : a group of people who sing together especially as a social activity in a school or college

glen /'glen/ *noun, pl glens* [count] : a narrow valley

glib /'glɪb/ *adj* **glib-ber; -best** [also more ~; most ~] *disapproving*

1 : said or done too easily or carelessly : showing little preparation or thought • Politicians need to do more than provide *glib* answers to difficult questions. • *glib* generalizations • the actor's *glib* portrayal of a drug addict

2 : speaking in a smooth, easy way that is not sincere • *glib* politicians

— **glib-ly** *adv* • He talks *glibly* of returning to school, but I know he doesn't have the discipline. — **glib-ness** *noun* [noncount]

glide /'glɑɪd/ *verb* **glides; glid-ed; glid-ing**

1 *always followed by an adverb or preposition* [no obj] : to move in a smooth way • The swans *glided* over the surface of the lake. • We watched the skiers *glide* down the slope.

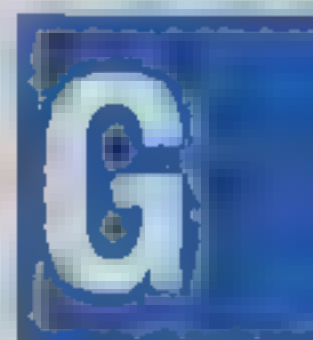
2 *of an airplane* : to fly without engine power [no obj] The pilot/plane *glided* to a safe landing after the engine failed. [+ obj] The pilot *glided* the plane to a safe landing.

— **glide** *noun* [singular] • the graceful *glide* of the swan • The plane went into a *glide*.

glid-er /'glɑɪdə/ *noun, pl -ers* [count] : an aircraft that is similar to an airplane but without an engine — compare HANG GLIDER

¹**glim-mer** /'glɪmə/ *noun, pl -mers* [count]

1 : a weak, unsteady light • the *glimmer* of a distant star



2 a : a faint idea or suggestion of something • Their first meeting with the new boss gave them a *glimmer* of what they could expect. **b** : a small amount or sign of something • a *glimmer* of light • a *glimmer* of hope • I saw a *glimmer* [=glint] of recognition in her eyes.

2 **glimmer** *verb* -mers; -mered; -mer-ing [no obj] : to shine in a weak, faint, or unsteady way • Candles *glimmered* in the windows of the inn. • Moonlight *glimmered* on the pond. • *glimmering* light

glim-mer-ing /'glɪməɪŋ/ *noun*, *pl* -ings [count] : GLIMMER • a faint *glimmering* of light • *glimmerings* of hope

1 **glimpse** /'glɪmps/ *verb* glimps-es; glimpsed; glimps-ing [+ obj] : to look at or see (something or someone) for a very short time • We *glimpsed* him through the window as his car sped past. — sometimes used figuratively • The book allows us to *glimpse* the future of the computer industry.

2 **glimpse** *noun*, *pl* glimpses [count] : a brief or quick view or look • We caught/got/had a *glimpse* of him through the window as his car sped past. • my first *glimpse* of [=my first look at] the city — often used figuratively • The book offers a *glimpse* into the future of the computer industry.

1 **glint** /'glɪnt/ *verb* glints; glint-ed; glint-ing [no obj] : to shine in small bright flashes • The sun *glinted* off the tops of the waves. • The waves *glinted* in the sunlight.

2 **glint** *noun*, *pl* glints [count]

1 : a small flash of light • He saw *glints* of sunlight on the river's surface.

2 : a small amount of emotion seen in a person's eyes • I thought I detected a *glint* [=glimmer] of recognition when I met her. • He had a playful *glint* in his eyes. = He had a *glint* of playfulness in his eyes.

glis-ten /'glɪsn/ *verb* -tens; -tened; -ten-ing [no obj] : to shine with light reflected off a wet surface • Rain made the streets *glisten*. • The streets *glistened* in the rain. • Her eyes *glistened* with tears/emotion. • a long beach of *glistening* sand

glitch /'glɪtʃ/ *noun*, *pl* glitch-es [count] *informal* : an unexpected and usually minor problem • *Glitches* in the speaker's schedule caused some delays.; *especially* : a minor problem with a machine or device (such as a computer) • A technical *glitch* caused a temporary shutdown. • computer/software *glitches*

1 **glit-ter** /'glɪtə/ *verb* -ters; -tered; -ter-ing [no obj] : to shine brightly : to shine with bright points of light • The sequins on her dress *glittered* in the sun. • Her eyes *glittered* with intelligence and amusement.

2 **glitter** *noun* [noncount]

1 : light that shines in small, bright points • the *glitter* of diamonds

2 : an appealing, fancy, and exciting quality : a glamorous quality • He was drawn to the *glitter* of the city's nightlife.

3 : small, shiny objects used to decorate a surface

— **glit-tery** /'glɪtəri/ *adj* [more ~; most ~] • a *glittery* gown/nightclub

glit-te-ra-ti /,glɪtə'ra:ti/ *noun* [plural] *informal* : people who are famous, wealthy, and attractive — usually used with *the* • She's frequently seen at parties attended by *the* Hollywood *glitterati*. • His new restaurant is popular among *the* *glitterati*.

glittering *adj* [more ~; most ~]

1 : shining brightly • *glittering* stars

2 a : very attractive or appealing in a fancy or exciting way • The party was attended by a *glittering* array of celebrities. • *glittering* prizes **b** *chiefly* *Brit* : very successful or impressive • a *glittering* triumph • a *glittering* career

glitz /'glɪts/ *noun* [noncount] *often disapproving* : a very fancy and attractive quality that is associated with rich or famous people • She grew tired of the *glitz* and glamour of Hollywood life. • The casino was all *glitz*.

— **glitzy** /'glɪtsi/ *adj* **glitz-i-er**; -est • a *glitzy* casino

gloom-ing /'gloumɪŋ/ *noun*

the gloaming *literary* : the low light that is seen in the evening as the sun sets • Fireflies twinkled in *the gloaming*. [=in the twilight; at dusk]

gloat /'glout/ *verb* gloats; gloat-ed; gloat-ing [no obj] : to show in an improper or selfish way that you are happy with your own success or another person's failure • After such a tough campaign, they're *gloating* over their victory in the election. • All right, you won. There's no need to *gloat* (about it). • a *gloating* remark/look

— **gloat-ing-ly** *adv* • They spoke *gloatingly* about their victory.

glob /'glɑ:b/ *noun*, *pl* globs [count] *informal* : a large, round drop of something soft or wet : BLOB • A *glob* of ice cream

was stuck to his mustache. • *globs* of whipped cream

glob-al /'gloubəl/ *adj*

1 : involving the entire world • the *global* economy • *global* fame • English is becoming a *global* language.

2 : involving all of something and especially a computer system, file, etc. • The program allows users to do *global* searches through all the available data.

— **glob-al-ly** /'gloubəli/ *adv* • The game will be televised *globally*. [=throughout the world] • a *globally* recognized problem

glob-al-ize *also* *Brit* **glob-al-ise** /'gloubəlaɪz/ *verb* -iz-es; -ized; -iz-ing

1 [+ obj] : to make (something) cover, involve, or affect the entire world • The economy has become *globalized*. • *global-ize* a company's operations

2 [no obj] *of a business* : to begin to operate throughout the world • The company is planning to *globalize*.

— **glob-al-i-za-tion** *also* *Brit* **glob-al-i-sa-tion** /,gloubələ'zeɪʃən, *Brit* ,gləʊbəlaɪ'zeɪʃən/ *noun* [noncount] : the *globalization* of the economy/company

global village *noun* [singular] : the world seen as a community in which people are connected by computers, television, etc., and all depend on one another

global warming *noun* [noncount] : the recent increase in the world's temperature that is believed to be caused by the increase of certain gases (such as carbon dioxide) in the atmosphere • World leaders will address the problem of *global warming*. — compare GREENHOUSE EFFECT

globe /'gloub/ *noun*, *pl* globes

1 [count] : an object that is shaped like a large ball with a map of the world on it • She has a *globe* in her office.

2 *the globe* : the earth • satellites circling *the globe* • His fame has spread around *the globe*.

3 [count] : a round object : SPHERE • The tree was decorated with colorful glass *globes*.

— **glob-u-lar** /'glɑ:bjələ/ *adj* • *globular* [=round] fruit • a *globular* shape

globe-trot-ter /'gloub,tra:tə/ *noun*, *pl* -ters [count] : a person who frequently travels to different places around the world

— **globe-trot-ting** /'gloub,tra:tɪŋ/ *noun* [noncount] • a life of *globe-trotting* — **globe-trotting** *adj* • a *globe-trotting* diplomat

glob-ule /'glɑ:bju:l/ *noun*, *pl* -ules [count] : a tiny ball of something (such as a thick liquid) • *globules* of fat/mercury

glock-en-spiel /'glɑ:kən,ʃpi:l/ *noun*, *pl* -spiels [count] : a musical instrument that has a line of flat metal bars of different sizes that are hit with two special sticks

glom /'glɑ:m/ *verb* gloms; glommed; glom-ming [+ obj] *US, informal* : to take or get (something) • The book consists of a collection of humorous essays *glommed* [=taken] from popular magazines.

glom on to or glom onto [phrasal verb] **glom on to** (something or someone) or **glom onto** (something or someone)

1 : to take (something) for your own use • He *glommed on to* other people's ideas as if they were his own. **2** : to become strongly attached to or associated with (someone or something) • The coating *gloms on to* the plastic during heating. • He *glommed onto* me at the party, and I was stuck talking to him all night. **3** : to become aware of (something) • Other businesses have not yet *glommed on to* the potential of this new technology.

gloom /'glu:m/ *noun* [noncount]

1 : partial or total darkness • The painting captures the *gloom* of a foggy night. • He walked away, disappearing into the *gloom*. • the *gloom* of the forest

2 : a feeling of sadness • He was often subject to periods of *gloom*. • A cloud of *gloom* has descended over the city. • The papers are filled with stories of *gloom and doom*. [=with sad and tragic stories]

gloomy /'glu:mi/ *adj* **gloom-i-er**; -est [also more ~; most ~]

1 : somewhat dark • a *gloomy* hallway : not bright or sunny • We've had a week of *gloomy* weather.

2 : causing feelings of sadness • The news continues to be *gloomy*. • a *gloomy* landscape : not hopeful or promising • She doesn't agree with their *gloomy* economic forecasts. • His book paints a *gloomy* picture of the prospects for peace.

3 : sad or depressed • I've never seen you looking so *gloomy*.

— **gloom-i-ly** /'glu:məli/ *adv* • They *gloomily* surveyed the fire damage. — **gloom-i-ness** /'glu:minəs/ *noun* [noncount] • the *gloominess* of the hallway/weather/future

glop /'glɑ:p/ *noun*, *pl* **glops** chiefly US, informal : a thick, wet mixture or quantity of something unpleasant [*non-count*] I remember the *glop* they used to feed us for school lunch. [*count*] She always puts big *glops* [=globs] of ketchup on her fries.

– **glop-py** /'glɑ:pi/ *adj* **glop-pi-er**; **-est** • a *gloppy* mess
glorified *adj*, always used before a noun — used to say that someone or something that seems to be impressive is actually not very important, powerful, etc. • His title is Assistant to the Director, but he's really just a *glorified* errand boy.

glo-ri-fy /'glorə,fai/ *verb* **-fies**; **-fied**; **-fy-ing** [+ *obj*]
1 : to honor or praise (a god or goddess) • *Glorify* and give thanks to God.

2 : to make (something) seem much better or more important than it really is • The film *glorifies* violence. [=the film makes violence seem exciting or appealing]

– **glo-ri-fi-ca-tion** /,glorəfə'keɪʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*] • Critics object to the film's *glorification* of violence.

glo-ri-ous /'glorijəs/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]

1 : having or deserving glory, fame, or honor • He had a long and *glorious* military career. • The old ruins give only a hint of the city's *glorious* past. • The government has described the battle as a *glorious* victory.

2 : very beautiful or delightful • Our room had a *glorious* view of the mountains. • a *glorious* sunset • *glorious* music • What a *glorious* day!

– **glo-ri-ous-ly** *adv* • a *gloriously* beautiful sunset — sometimes used for emphasis • They were all *gloriously* [=extremely] drunk. – **glo-ri-ous-ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

1 glo-ry /'glori/ *noun*, *pl* **-ries**

1 [*noncount*] **a** : public praise, honor, and fame • As a young soldier he dreamed of winning military *glory*. • He now has only a few trophies to remind him of the *glory* of his athletic career. • He claimed that everything he did was done for the *greater glory* of his country. [=was done to bring honor to his country] • Neither candidate has exactly *covered himself in/with glory* [=neither candidate has been very successful or impressive] during this campaign. • They are *basking in the glory* of their success. [=they are enjoying the attention that has been given to them because of their success] — see also REFLECTED GLORY **b** : praise of a god or goddess • Let us give *glory* to God. • *Glory* be to God.

2 [*count*] : something that brings praise or fame to someone or something : something that is a source of great pride • The *glory* of the town is its fountain. • an art exhibit showing off the *glories* of ancient civilizations • He intends this movie to be the *crowning glory* [=the final, most successful part or achievement] of his career as a filmmaker.

3 [*noncount*] **a** : a state of great happiness or satisfaction • When she's on stage, she's *in her glory*. [=she is at her best; she is most happy] **b** : a state of great success or beauty • The new owners are trying to restore the company/building to its former *glory*. • The beautiful art reminds us of the *glory* of the empire. • The autumn leaves are *in their glory* now. [=they are at their most beautiful stage now] • He was there *in all his glory*. [=he was there looking very well or impressive]

glory be! *old-fashioned* — used to express surprise or happiness • You're pregnant? Well, *glory be!*

glory days/years : a time in the past that is remembered for great success or happiness • The team's *glory days* are long gone. • His *glory years* as an actor are now far behind him.

go to (your) glory *old-fashioned* : to die • remembering those who have *gone to their glory*

no guts, no glory see **1 GUT**

– see also MORNING GLORY

2 glory *verb* **-ries**; **-ried**; **-ry-ing**
glory in [*phrasal verb*] **glory in** (something) : to feel or show great joy or pleasure because of (something) • They *gloried in* their country's success.

1 gloss /'glɑ:s/ *noun*

1 [*singular*] : the brightness of a smooth and shiny surface • He polished the car to a high *gloss*. [=until it was very shiny]
2 : an attractive quality or appearance that hides the way a person or thing really is [*noncount*] He was all *gloss* and no substance. [*singular*] Her ruthless ambition was covered by a thin *gloss* of good manners.

3 [*noncount*] : a type of makeup that is used to add shine and often color to the lips • lip *gloss*
– compare **3 GLOSS**

2 gloss *verb* **gloss-es**; **glossed**; **gloss-ing**
gloss over [*phrasal verb*] **gloss over** (something) : to treat

or describe (something, such as a serious problem or error) as if it were not important • He *glossed over* the accident. • The problems were ignored or *glossed over*.
– compare **4 GLOSS**

3 gloss *noun*, *pl* **glosses** [*count*] : a brief explanation of the meaning of a word used in a text • The book's introductory chapters include helpful *glosses* for/of many unfamiliar terms. — compare **1 GLOSS**

4 gloss *verb* **glosses**; **glossed**; **glossing** [+ *obj*] : to give the meaning of (a word or phrase used in a text) • Many unfamiliar terms are *glossed* in the book's introduction. • Scholars have *glossed* this term as (meaning) “chisel.” — compare **2 GLOSS**

glos-sa-ry /'glɑ:səri/ *noun*, *pl* **-ries** [*count*]

1 : a list that gives definitions of the hard or unusual words found in a book

2 : a dictionary of the special terms in a particular field or job

1 glossy /'glɑ:si/ *adj* **gloss-i-er**; **-est** [*also more* ~; *most* ~] : having a shiny, smooth surface • a *glossy* magazine cover • *glossy* paint • a plant with *glossy* green leaves

– **gloss-i-ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

2 glossy *noun*, *pl* **gloss-ies** [*count*]

1 : a photograph with a shiny surface • an 8x10 [=8-inch by 10-inch] *glossy*

2 chiefly Brit : a popular magazine that is printed on smooth and shiny paper — usually plural • The *glossies* were filled with stories about his affair.

glottal stop *noun*, *pl* ~ **stops** [*count*] *linguistics* : a speech sound made by briefly stopping the flow of air through the vocal cords

glot-tis /'glɑ:təs/ *noun*, *pl* **-tis-es** [*count*] *medical* : the opening between the vocal cords in your throat

– **glot-tal** /'glɑ:t/ *adj*

glove /'glʌv/ *noun*, *pl* **gloves** [*count*]

1 : a covering for the hand that has separate parts for each finger • a pair of *gloves* • latex/leather/rubber *gloves* — compare MITTEN; see also KID GLOVES

2 **a baseball** : a padded leather covering for the hand that is used to catch the ball and that has individual thumb and finger sections • a *fielder's glove* — compare MITT **b** : a very thick, padded covering for the hand that is worn in the sport of boxing • a *boxing glove* — often used figuratively in the phrases *take off the gloves* and *the gloves are off* to say that people are beginning to criticize or attack each other in a very harsh and direct way • The candidates have *taken off the gloves* and started to make personal attacks against each other. • It's the end of the campaign, and *the gloves are off*.
fit (you) like a glove see **2 FIT**
hand in glove see **1 HAND**

– **gloved** /'glʌvd/ *adj* • a *gloved* hand [=a hand wearing a glove]



glove compartment *noun*, *pl* ~ **-ments** [*count*] : a small storage area in front of the front seat of a car, truck, etc. — called also *glove box*; see picture at CAR

glove puppet *noun*, *pl* ~ **-pets** [*count*] Brit : HAND PUPPET

1 glow /'glou/ *verb* **glows**; **glowed**; **glow-ing** [*no obj*]

1 **a** : to shine with low light and heat but usually without flame • The coals *glowed* in the fireplace. • The fireplace

glowed with the dying coals. **b** : to shine with a steady light • The lamp *glowed* (brightly/softly) in the window. • This toy *glows* in the dark.

2 a : to have a warm, reddish color from exercise, emotion, etc. — often + *with* • Her face was *glowing with* embarrassment. **b** : to look happy, excited, or healthy — usually + *with* • Her parents *glowed with* pride [=they looked very happy and proud] as she was given her diploma. • The children were *glowing with* pleasure/excitement.

2 glow *noun* [singular]

1 : a soft and steady light • We could see the *glow* of the lamp in the window. • The town's lights cast a *glow* on the horizon.

2 : a pink color in your face from exercising, being excited, etc. • the rosy *glow* of health

3 a : a pleasant feeling • He felt a *glow* as he remembered the day they first met. • Their problems were all forgotten in the *glow* of victory. **b** : physical warmth or heat • She felt the *glow* from the fireplace.

glow-er /'glawə/ *verb* -ers; -ered; -er-ing [no obj] : to look at someone or something in an angry way • The librarian *glowered* at us when she heard us laughing. — sometimes used figuratively • a *glowering* [=dark, forbidding] sky

— **glower** *noun*, *pl* -ers [count] • The librarian looked at us with a *glower* of annoyance.

glowing *adj* [more ~; most ~]

1 : very enthusiastic : full of praise • Her previous boss gave her a *glowing* recommendation. • The book has received *glowing* reviews. • They spoke about their trip in *glowing* terms. [=they described their trip in a very enthusiastic way]

2 : having a warm color • She has a *glowing* complexion.

— **glow-ing-ly** /'glowɪŋli/ *adv* • They spoke *glowingly* about their trip.

glow-worm /'glou,wɔ:m/ *noun*, *pl* -worms [count] : a type of insect that produces a small amount of light from its body

glu-cose /'glu:kous/ *noun* [noncount] *technical* : a type of sugar that is found in plants and fruits

1 glue /'glu:/ *noun*, *pl* **glues** : a substance used to stick things tightly together [noncount] a tube of *glue* [count] The hardware store offers several different *glues*.

stick like glue see **2** STICK

— **glu-ey** /'glu:wi/ *adj* **glu-i-er**; -est • a *gluey* [=sticky] mess

2 glue *verb* **glues**; **glued**; **glu-ing** also **glue-ing** [+ obj]

1 : to make (something) stick to something else by using glue • I *glued* the pieces of the cup back together. • I *glued* the handle (back) on/onto the cup.

2 : to stay in one place because of interest, shock, excitement, etc. — usually used as *glued to* • He spends his days *glued to* the television. [=he watches television all day] • We spent several anxious hours *glued to* the phone as we waited for news of her condition. • a thriller that will keep you *glued to* your seat

keep your eyes glued to see **1** EYE

glum /'glʌm/ *adj* **glum-mer**; -mest : sad or depressed • There's no need to look so *glum*—things will get better soon. • There was a *glum* silence in the room.

— **glum-ly** *adv* • "It's no good," he said *glumly*. — **glum-ness** *noun* [noncount]

1 glut /'glʌt/ *noun*, *pl* **gluts** [count] : too much of something : a supply of something that is much more than is needed or wanted — usually singular • a *glut* of oil on the market

2 glut *verb* **gluts**; **glut-ted**; **glut-ting** [+ obj] : to fill (something) with more of something than is needed or wanted • The market is *glutted* with oil.

glu-ten /'glu:tɪn/ *noun* [noncount] : a substance in wheat and flour that holds dough together

glu-ti-nous /'glu:tɪnəs/ *adj* [more ~; most ~] : STICKY • *glutinous* rice

glut-ton /'glʌtɒn/ *noun*, *pl* -tons [count]

1 : a person who eats too much

2 : someone who wants a large amount of something — + *for* • She's a *glutton for* gossip. • That guy's a real *glutton for* punishment. [=he seems to enjoy things that other people dislike]

— **glut-ton-ous** /'glʌtənəs/ *adj* [more ~; most ~] • He's a *gluttonous* little boy. — **glut-ton-ous-ly** *adv* • eating *gluttonously*

glut-ony /'glʌtəni/ *noun* [noncount] : the act or habit of eating or drinking too much

glyc-er-in also **glyc-er-ine** /'glɪsəɾən/ *noun* [noncount] *technical* : a thick, sweet, clear liquid used in making medicines, food, soap, etc.

gm *abbr* gram

GM *abbr* **1** general manager **2** genetically modified

G-man /'dʒi:mæn/ *noun*, *pl* **G-men** /'dʒi:mɛn/ [count] *US*, *informal* + *old-fashioned* : a special agent of the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation : an FBI agent • a movie about gangsters and *G-men*

GMO *abbr* genetically modified organism • This food is *GMO-free*.

GMT *abbr* Greenwich Mean Time

gnarled /'nɑ:ɹəld/ *adj* [more ~; most ~]

1 of wood : having many twists and hard bumps or knots • *gnarled* branches • an ancient *gnarled* tree

2 : bumpy or twisted • the old man's *gnarled* fingers/hands

gnarly /'nɑ:li/ *adj* **gnarl-i-er**; -est

1 : GNARLED • *gnarly* branches

2 US slang **a** : very difficult or bad • a *gnarly* situation • a *gnarly* accident **b** : very good • some *gnarly* guitar playing

gnash /'næʃ/ *verb* **gnash-es**; **gnashed**; **gnash-ing**

gnash your teeth **1** : to grind your teeth together • He *gnashed* his teeth in his sleep. **2** : to show you are angry, upset, etc. • His opponents have been *gnashing their teeth* in/with frustration [=they have been showing their frustration] since he won the election. • His election has caused some *weeping and gnashing of teeth* among his opponents.

gnat /'næt/ *noun*, *pl* **gnats** [count] : a small fly that bites people and animals

gnaw /'na:/ *verb* **gnaws**; **gnawed**; **gnaw-ing**

1 : to bite or chew (something) repeatedly [+ obj] The dog was *gnawing* a bone. [no obj] He nervously *gnawed* on his fingernails. • Rabbits have *gnawed* at the hedge.

2 [+ obj] : to make (a hole in something) by chewing • Rabbits had *gnawed* a hole in the hedge. • Squirrels had *gnawed* their way into the attic. [=they had entered the attic by chewing a hole]

gnaw at [phrasal verb] **gnaw at (someone)** : to be a source of worry or concern to (someone) • This problem has been *gnawing at* me day and night. • She says she's fine, but I can see that something is *gnawing at* her.

gnawing *adj*, always used before a noun [more ~; most ~] : causing feelings of doubt or worry that last for a long time • I have a *gnawing* suspicion that he won't be there. • *gnawing* doubts

gnoc-chi /'na:ki/ *noun* [plural] : small balls of dough made from potatoes or flour that are boiled in water and usually served with a sauce in Italian cooking

gnome /'noum/ *noun*, *pl* **gnomes** [count]

1 in stories : a small creature who lives inside the earth and guards treasure ✧ A *gnome* looks like a little man and is often shown wearing a pointed hat.

2 : a statue that looks like a *gnome* and is often used outside in a garden • a garden *gnome*

gno-mic /'noumik/ *adj* [more ~; most ~] *formal* : said or written using few words that are difficult to understand • He made *gnomic* utterances concerning death. • *gnomic* writing/wisdom

GNP *abbr* gross national product

gnu /'nu:/ *noun*, *pl* **gnu** or **gnus** [count] : WILDEBEEST

1 go /'gou/ *verb* **goes** /'gouz/; **went** /'went/; **gone** /'ga:n/; **go-ing** /'gouɪŋ/

1 [no obj] **a** : to move or travel to a place • He *went* to the window and looked out at the yard. • She *goes* to the office every morning and comes home in the evening. • I'm tired. Let's *go* home. • She *went* downstairs to the kitchen. • The train *goes* from New York to Chicago. • Halt! *Who goes there?* [=who is there?; who is coming this way?] **b** : to travel to and stay in (a place) for a particular amount of time • I *went* with my family to Rome last year. • We're *going to* Iowa for a week. **c** : to move or travel in a particular way or for a particular distance • The car was *going* too fast. • How much farther do we have to *go*? • She *went* a long way to see him. • We *went* many miles that day. • *Go straight for* two blocks, then *go* right/left at the light. • The street is blocked, so we'll have to *go* around. — often used figuratively • Their relationship doesn't seem to be *going* anywhere. [=doesn't seem to be making any progress] • *Where do we go from here?* [=what do we do now?] • We've accomplished a lot, but we still have a *long way to go*. [=we have much more to do] • She has a lot of talent. If she works hard, she should *go far*. [=she should be very successful] • These changes will *go a long way* toward solving the dispute. • Would you *go so far* as to call them dishonest? [=would you say that they are dishonest?] • This time you've *gone too far*! [=you've done

something that cannot be allowed]

2 a [*no obj*] : to move to or be at a place (such as an office or school) for work, study, etc. — + *to* • She *goes to* church on Sunday. • She *goes to* work from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. • Their son is *going to* college in Florida. [=he is attending a college in Florida] • He *went to* prison for his crimes. **b** [*no obj*] : to do something that involves moving or traveling to a place — often + *on* • We're *going on* vacation next week. • The thieves *went on* a crime spree. — often + *-ing verb* • The neighbors *went running* [=the neighbors ran] when they heard the screams. • I like to *go walking/swimming/shopping*. [=I like to walk/swim/shop] — see also GO FOR 5 (below) **c** [*no obj*]

: to move or travel to a place for a particular purpose • I *went* to see them last week. • We *went* to see a movie last night. = We *went* to a movie last night. • Are you *going* to the wedding? [=do you plan to attend the wedding?] • I may *go* to see them next week. = I may *go* and see them next week. = (US) I may *go* see them next week. ♦ In informal spoken English, *go and* is used to emphasize a following verb. It usually expresses anger or annoyance. • Now you've *gone and* ruined it! • They *went and* changed it! • *Go and* get me a towel! ♦ In U.S. English, *go* by itself is also sometimes used this way. • Why did you have to *go* ruin it?! • *Go* get me a towel! **d** [+*obj*] *informal* : to engage in (doing something) • Don't *go telling* everyone what happened. [=don't tell everyone what happened] • He *went blabbing* the news all over the place.

3 [*no obj*] **a** : to leave a place • It's getting late. I should *go* now. • It's time to *go*. • I was just *going* when the phone rang. **b** : to leave a job, position, etc. • Pack up your desk and *go*. • She's retiring soon, and it'll be sad for all of us to see her *go*.

4 : to lie or move along a particular route or in a particular direction [*no obj*] The road *goes* from the town to the lake. • His land *goes* almost all the way down to the river. [+*obj*] Are you *going* my way? [=are you going in the same direction that I'm going in?] • The car *went* the length of the street and then turned around. — often used figuratively • She *went* the conventional route [=she did the conventional thing] by going straight to college after high school. • He has always *gone his own way*. [=he has always done the things he wants to do instead of the things that most people do]

5 [*no obj*] : to provide a way to get to a place • That door *goes* to the cellar. [=you can get to the cellar by going through that door] • Where does this road *go*?

6 [*no obj*] : to be sent • The message *went* by e-mail to all members of the staff.

7 [*no obj*] : to be lost, used, or spent • I don't know where the money *goes*. • I put my keys here a few minutes ago, and now they're *gone*. = (Brit) I put my keys here a few minutes ago, and now they've *gone*. — often used with *all* • The money was *all gone* by Friday. = *All* (of) the money was *gone* by Friday. • "Is there any ice cream left?" "No, it's *all gone*."

8 [*no obj*] : to die • She *went* peacefully at about midnight.

9 [*no obj*] **a** *of time* : to pass • The time/day seemed to *go* very quickly/slowly. **b** : to happen in a particular way • The evening *went* well/badly. • She worked hard to make the party *go* according to plan. • *The way things are going* [=if things keep happening this way], I may get laid off. • We lost the game, but *that's the way it/life goes*. [=it is a fact that bad or disappointing things will happen sometimes]

10 [*no obj*] *informal* — used to talk or ask about how you are feeling • "How are things *going*?" = How's everything *going*? = How's it *going*?" "Everything's *going* well/fine/great."

11 [*no obj*] : to be given up, thrown away, etc. • I want to keep these, but that one can *go*. • These old boxes *have got to go*. = These old boxes *have to go*. [=we have to get rid of these old boxes]

12 *always followed by an adverb or preposition* [*no obj*] **a** : to be sold • The house *went* for a good price. • The cabinets *go* for about \$400. • The painting will *go* to the highest bidder **b** : to be willing to pay a certain price for something • I'll *go* as high as \$100, but not over that.

13 [*no obj*] : to fail or become weak because of use, age, etc. • His hearing has started to *go*. • The batteries in the flashlight are *going* and will have to be changed.

14 [*no obj*] : to break because of force or pressure • The dam/roof is weakening and it could *go* at any time.

15 [*no obj*] : to start doing something • Everyone's here, so I think we're ready to *go*. = (US, informal) I think we're *good to go*. [=I think we're ready to start] — see also *get going* at GET

16 [*no obj*] — used to describe the result of a contest, election, decision, etc. • The election *went* in her favor. [=she won the election] • The verdict *went* against him.

17 [*no obj*] : to work in the usual or expected way • I couldn't get the car to *go*. • I kept working on the engine until I finally got it *going*. [=I finally got it to work/run] — see also *keep going* at ¹KEEP

18 a [*linking verb*] : to become — used to describe a change • The building has *gone* condo. [=the building has become a condominium] • British currency *went* decimal in 1971. — used especially to describe a change that is not wanted • The tire *went* flat. • The bread has *gone* stale. • The company *went* bankrupt. • Everything keeps *going* wrong. **b** [*no obj*] : to change • The leaves here *go* from green to red in the fall. • The situation *went* from bad to worse.

19 [*linking verb*] — used to describe someone's or something's condition • I like to *go* barefoot in the summer. • There was nothing to eat, so we had to *go* hungry. • My letters have *gone* unanswered. [=have not been answered] • Her excellent work has not *gone* unnoticed/unappreciated. [=someone has noticed/appreciated her excellent work]

20 [*no obj*] *informal* : to make a particular movement • Can you *go* like this with your eyebrows? [=can you move your eyebrows like this?]

21 [*no obj*] — used to talk about a story, song, etc. • I can't remember how the story *goes*. [=I can't remember what happens in the story] • The story/rumor/legend *goes* that he left home poor and came back rich. • The tune *goes* like this.

22 [*no obj*] **a** : to be able to fit in or through a space • Will these clothes *go* in your suitcase? [=is there enough room for these clothes in your suitcase?] • The box was too big to *go* [=fit] through the door. **b** : to have a usual or proper place or position : BELONG • These books *go* on the top shelf. • Where do your keys *go*?

23 [*no obj*] : to have authority : to require you to do what is said or demanded • *What she says goes*! [=she is the boss; you have to do what she tells you to do]

24 [*no obj*] *informal* : to use the toilet • One of the children said he had to *go*. — see also *go to the bathroom* at BATHROOM

25 : to make a sound [*no obj*] The bell *went* and the class came to an end. • The music was *going* full blast. [=the music was being played as loud as possible] [+*obj*] The gun *went* bang. • The cow *went* "moo."

26 [+*obj*] *informal* : to say (something) — used in describing what people said in a conversation • So she *goes*, "Did you write this?" and I *go*, "Mind your own business!"

27 [*no obj*] *of a sports team or player* : to have a specified record • The team *went* 11–2 last season. [=the team won 11 games and lost 2 games last year] • The shortstop *went* two for four in yesterday's game. [=the shortstop had two hits in four times at bat in yesterday's game]

anything goes : anything is acceptable : there are no rules for behavior, dress, etc. • She dresses conservatively at work, but on the weekends, *anything goes*.

as (someone or something) goes — used to compare someone or something with someone or something else of the same kind • *As lectures go*, it was very interesting.

be going Brit : to be available • There *are* no jobs *going* right now.

be going to — used to talk about what will happen or could happen • It's *going to* be cold tomorrow. [=it will be cold tomorrow] • It's *going to* rain: if you don't take an umbrella, you're *going to* get soaked. • I *am not going to* tolerate [=I won't tolerate] any more bad behavior! • I *was just going to* call him. [=I was about to call him] — see also GONNA

come and go see ¹COME

easy come, easy go see ²EASY

go about [*phrasal verb*] *go about (something)* **1** : to start to do (something) • I'd like to fix this old radio but I don't know how to *go about* (doing) it. **2** : to do (something) • Despite the threat of war, most people are just quietly *going about their business*. [=most people are just doing the things that they usually do]

go a bundle on see ¹BUNDLE

go after [*phrasal verb*] **1** *go after (someone)* **a** : to follow and try to stop or catch (someone) • When the boy ran out the door, his mother quickly *went after* him. • The police *went after* the escaped criminal. **b** : to try to find and punish (someone) • The government is *going after* people who cheat on their taxes. **2** *go after (something or someone)* : to try to get (something or someone) • If you want the job, you should just *go after* it. • She accused her friend of *going after* her husband.

go against [*phrasal verb*] **1** *go against (something)* : to not agree with (something) • I won't do anything that *goes*



against my conscience/beliefs/principles. • values that *go against* those of society **2 go against (someone or something)** **a** : to oppose (someone or something) • He was surprised when some of his former supporters *went against* him. • He was reluctant to *go against* his parents' wishes. [=he was reluctant to do something that his parents did not want him to do] **b** : to compete against (a player or team) in a contest or game • The Red Sox will be *going against* the Yankees in tonight's game. **3 go against (someone)** : to not be good for (someone) : to not produce the result that is wanted by (someone) • Everything seemed to be *going against* her but she didn't give up hope. • The verdict *went against* the defendant. [=the verdict was not in favor of the defendant]

go ahead [phrasal verb] **1** : to do or begin to do something • Instead of waiting for approval, they just *went ahead* and started working on the project. : to do something after planning to do it or after getting permission to do it • Despite the bad weather, they decided to *go ahead* with the party. • My boss told me to *go ahead* (with the work). • "Could I sit here?" "Sure, *go (right) ahead*." • "I probably shouldn't have any more cake." "Oh, *go ahead*. It won't kill you." — see also GO-AHEAD **2** : to happen or proceed • Despite the weather, the party *went ahead* as planned. • After a brief delay, the work is now *going ahead* again. **3** : to go or travel to a place before the other person or group that is with you • I'll *go (on) ahead* and make sure that everything's ready when you arrive.

go all out : to do something with as much effort as possible • When he has a party, he likes to *go all out*. [=have a big and expensive party] • Her company always *went all out* [=did everything possible] to make the customer happy. — see also ALL-OUT

go all the way see ¹WAY

go along [phrasal verb] **1** : to continue or proceed • The project is *going along* smoothly. • On this job there's a lot to learn—but I'm sure you'll pick it up as you *go along*. • He was just making up the story as he *went along*. **2** : to go or travel with someone • They were going to the fair so I asked whether I could *go along*. — often + *with* • I asked whether I could *go along with* them. **3** : to agree to do or accept what other people want • We tried to convince him to support us but he refused to *go along*. — usually + *with* • He refused to *go along with* us. • He refused to *go along with* our plan. **4** : to be part of something — + *with* • If I want the job I have to accept the stress that *goes along with* it.

go ape see ³APE

go around or chiefly Brit go round [phrasal verb]

1 a *always followed by an adverb or preposition* : to go to different places • She and her friends *go around* (together) to lots of clubs. = She *goes around* with her friends to lots of clubs. **b** *chiefly Brit* : to travel to a place that is nearby • I *went round* [=went over] to his flat. **c** — used to describe the way a person often dresses or behaves • She *goes around* (dressed) in a miniskirt. • You can't *go around* treating people so rudely. **2 go around or go around (a place)** : to go or pass from one person to another person • There's a rumor *going around* (the office) that the boss is about to get fired. • An amusing story is *going around*. • There's a nasty cold *going around*: I hope you don't catch it. **3 go around or go around (something or someone)** : to be long enough to pass all the way around (something or someone) • This belt isn't long enough to *go around* (my waist). **4** ✧ If people want something and there is *enough/plenty to go around*, there is enough for all of the people who want it or need it. • There aren't *enough jobs to go around*. **5 what goes around comes around informal** — used to say that if you treat other people badly you will eventually be treated badly by someone else

go at [phrasal verb] **1 a go at (someone)** : to attack (someone) • They *went at* each other viciously. **b go at it** : to fight or argue • Our neighbors were arguing again last night. They *went at it* for almost an hour. **2 go at (something)** : to make an effort to do or deal with (something) • They had to *go at* the problem from many different angles before they finally solved it. • It was a tough job, and I was impressed by the energetic way he *went at* it.

go away [phrasal verb] **1 a** : to leave a place or person • She angrily told him to *go away* and stop bothering her. **b** : to leave your home for a period of time • They're *going away* on vacation. • After graduating from high school, he *went away* to college. • a *going-away* present/party [=a present/party for someone who is leaving to live, study, or travel in

a distant place] **2** : to stop existing or happening : to end • I just wish there was some way to make the pain *go away*.

go back [phrasal verb] **1 a** : to return to a place • I forgot my purse and had to *go back* for it. • What was it like to *go back* after so many years? • After college she *went back* home. • *Go back* inside! You'll catch cold. **b** : to begin doing something again — + *to* • I turned off the alarm and *went back* to sleep. • He waved hello, then *went right back* to work. • She *went back* to eating her dinner. ✧ The phrase *there's no going back* means that you have done or decided something and cannot change it. • I've already signed the contract, so *there's no going back* now. **2 a** : to have existed for a particular amount of time or since a particular period • These ruins *go back* hundreds of years. — often + *to* • a tradition that *goes back* [=dates back] to colonial times **b** : to have known each other for a particular amount of time • We *go back* 30 years. • He and I *go back a long way*. = He and I *go way back*. [=he and I have known each other for many years] **c** : to think or talk about something from the past • To fully understand the issues, we have to *go back* a few years. — often + *to* • I'd like to *go back* to your earlier comment. [=I'd like to discuss it further] **3 go back on (something)** : to not do what is required by (something, such as a promise) • She *went back on* her promise to help us. [=she failed to keep her promise] • I would never *go back on* my word.

go before [phrasal verb] **1 go before (someone)** : to happen or exist at an earlier time than (someone) • We owe a great debt of gratitude to those who *went before* us. **2 go before (someone or something)** : to be considered by (someone or something) for an official decision or judgment • The contestants will *go before* the judges tomorrow. • The case *went before* the court.

go beyond [phrasal verb] **go beyond (something)** : to do more than (something) • She *went beyond* the call of duty. [=she did more than was required] • We need to *go beyond* merely talking about the problem.

go by [phrasal verb] **1 of time** : to pass • The morning seemed to *go by* very quickly/slowly. • Many years have *gone by* since the last time I saw her. • They have many happy memories of days *gone by*. [=bygone days, days/times in the past] **2 go by (something)** **a** : to be guided or directed by (something, such as a rule) • That's a good rule to *go by*. **b** : to form an opinion from (something) • She may be guilty but we have very little evidence to *go by*. • You can't always *go by* appearances. [=you can't always judge people or things by the way they look] **3 go by (a name)** : to be known by (a name) • His name is Edwin but he *goes by* Ed. [=people call him Ed] **4 go by or go by (somewhere)** : to go somewhere in order to visit someone • I *went by* (her house) to see her after school.

go down [phrasal verb] **1** : to fall or crash to the ground • The airplane *went down* when one of its engines caught fire. • The boxer took a punch and *went down* hard. **2** : to sink into the water • The ship *went down* after hitting an iceberg. **3 a** : to drop to a lower level • Prices are expected to *go down* soon. • The quality of his work has been *going down*. • She had a fever yesterday, but it *went down* this morning. **b** : to become less or smaller • It may take a few hours for the swelling to *go down*. **4** : to become less bright • The lights *went down* [=the lights were turned down] as the movie started. **5 of the sun or moon** : to stop being visible in the sky : to set • The sun comes up in the morning and *goes down* at night. **6 a** — used to say how easy or hard it is to eat or drink something • The medicine *went down* easily. [=it was easy to swallow the medicine] • I took a sip but it *went down* the wrong way. [=I choked on my drink] **b** — used to say how easy or hard it is to accept or agree to something • His suggestion didn't *go down* [=go over] very well with his boss. [=his boss didn't like his suggestion] **7** : to lose or fail • Last year's champion *went down* in the first round of the tournament this year. • The regime finally *went down* [=fell] in a wave of popular protest. **8 of a computer, system, etc.** : to stop working • The network *went down* this morning. **9** : to be remembered or talked about as an important person, event, etc. • He will *go down* as one of the greatest leaders this country has ever known. • His name will *go down in history*. **10 Brit, informal** : to be sent to prison • He *went down* [=went to jail] for six years for the robbery. **11 somewhat informal** : to travel to a place (especially one that is nearby or to the south) • I need to *go down* to the store for milk. • We *went down* south to visit relatives. **12 slang** : to happen • We

need to find out what's *going down*. [= (more commonly) *going on*] **13 go down on (someone)** *slang* : to perform oral sex on (someone) **14 go down with (an illness)** *Brit* : to begin to have or suffer from (an illness) • He *went down with* [= *caught, came down with*] measles.

go easy, go easy on/with see ²EASY

go figure see ²FIGURE

go for [phrasal verb] **1 a go for (someone)** : to attack (someone) • My dog *went for* the intruder. **b go for (something)** : to try to get (something) • *go for* the prize • If you want to achieve success, you have to stop hesitating and just *go for it*! **2 go for (something)** : to accept or agree to (something, such as a plan or suggestion) • I asked her to lend us some money, but she wouldn't *go for* it. [=she wouldn't agree to lend us money] **3 go for (someone or something)** *informal* **a** : to like or be attracted to (someone or something) • When I see how she looks at him, I can tell she really *goes for* him. • I don't really *go for* modern art. • I *could go for* [=I would like] a cup of coffee right now. **b** : to relate to or apply to (someone or something) • The rule *goes for* you, too. [=the rule also applies to you] • "I'd like ice cream for desert." "That *goes for* me too." [=I'd like ice cream too] • The economy here has been growing stronger, and *the same goes for* [=the same is true for] many other areas. **4 go for (a price)** : to be sold for (a particular price) • The painting *went for* more than a million dollars. **5 go for (a walk, a drive, etc.)** : to do an activity (such as walking or driving a car) that usually involves going somewhere • She *went for* a walk/stroll after dinner. • On Saturday mornings we like to *go for* a drive out in the countryside. • Would anyone like to *go for* a swim? **6** ♢ If you *have something going for you*, you have a talent, skill, etc., that helps you. • She's not as young as some of the other athletes, but experience helps, and she *has that going for* her. [=she has an advantage because of her experience] • You should be more confident in yourself. You *have a lot going for you*! [=you have many talents, abilities, etc.]

go great guns see ¹GUN

go in [phrasal verb] **1 of the sun or moon** : to become hidden by a cloud • The afternoon got cooler after the sun *went in*. **2 go in for (something)** : to like or be interested in (something) • She doesn't *go in for* sports. **3 go in on (something)** *US, informal* : to help pay for (something, such as a present) • Are you going to *go in on* the gift for her? • We all *went in on* the gift together. [=we all gave some money towards buying the gift] **4 go in with (someone)** : to join (someone) in a business, project, etc. • His brother-in-law *went in with* him on his new business.

go into [phrasal verb] **go into (something)** **1 a** : to start to be in (a different state or condition) • After she lost her job she *went into* a deep depression. [=she became very depressed] • The criminal has *gone into hiding*. [=the criminal is hiding] • After losing the election, she *went into seclusion*. — see also *go into effect* at ¹EFFECT **b** : to start to move in (a different and usually bad way) • The car *went into* a skid. [=the car began to skid] • The plane *went into* a tailspin. **2** : to start to do (something) as a job or career • He wants to *go into* the priesthood. [=he wants to become a priest] • Their daughter is planning to *go into* medicine. [=to be a doctor; to get a job in the medical field] • Both his sons have *gone into* the army. [=joined the army] • His dream is to *go into business* for himself. [=to start his own business] **3 a** : to talk about (something) • I'll try to tell the story without *going into* too many details. = I'll try not to *go into* too much detail. : to talk about the details of (something) • Having *gone into* the causes of the French Revolution, the book then discusses its effects. • "I've had a long day." "What happened?" "I'll tell you later. I don't feel like *going into* it right now." **b** : to try to get information about (something) — usually used as *(be) gone into* • A problem like that should really *be gone into* [=looked into] carefully. **4** : to be used for (something) • Lots of time, energy, and money have *gone into* (completing) the project. **5 mathematics** — used to say how many times a number can be multiplied to produce a larger number • 6 *goes into* 18 three times. [=18 divided by 6 equals 3]

go it alone see ²ALONE

go off [phrasal verb] **1 a of a bomb** : to explode • The building was evacuated before the bomb *went off*. **b of a gun** : to shoot • The gun *went off* accidentally. **c of an alarm** : to begin to make a sudden loud noise • I woke up when the alarm *went off*. **2 of lights, electricity, etc.** : to stop working • The lights in the building suddenly *went off*. **3**

: to leave a place for a new place • He *went off* to join the army after graduating from high school. • She *went off* to America. **4 a** : to occur or happen • The meeting *went off* as scheduled. [=the meeting happened when it was scheduled to happen] **b** : to happen a particular way • The party *went off* well. [=the party was a success] • The meeting *went off* poorly. **5 US, informal** : to begin shouting at someone in an angry way — usually + *on* • Her boss *went off on* her because she was late again. **6 go off (someone or something)** *Brit* : to stop liking (someone or something) • She used to like him but now she's *gone off* him completely. • My boss has *gone off* the idea, so it's been cancelled. **7 chiefly Brit** **a go off with (someone)** : to leave (a spouse, partner, etc.) for someone else • He left his wife and *went off with* [=ran off with] some young thing. **b go off with (something)** : to take (something that belongs to someone else) away with you : STEAL • Someone *went off with* my pencil/wallet.

go on [phrasal verb] **1** : to continue: such as **a** : to continue on a journey • We *stopped* briefly in Detroit, and then *went on* to Chicago. **b** : to continue as time passes • Life *goes on*. • How much longer will the meeting *go on*? [=last] **c** : to continue doing something • She *went on* working [=she continued to work] after everyone else had stopped. **d** : to continue talking • He *went on* (and on) about how unfairly he had been treated. [=he talked about it for a long time]: to talk too much or too long about something • She's always *going on* about the importance of a good diet. **e** : to continue to be in the same situation or relationship • We can't *go on* like this. **2** : to go or travel to a place before another person or group that is with you • You *go on* (ahead). I'll come later. **3** : to do or say something else after you have finished doing or saying something — usually + *to* • He accepted the nomination and *went on to* win the election. • After I finished reading the first book I immediately *went on to* the next one. • He *went on to* say that further tax increases would be necessary. • Everyone expected that she would *go on to greater things*. [=that she would become very successful] **4** : to happen • What's *going on*? • No one knows exactly what *went on* during their private meeting. — see also GOINGS-ON **5 of lights, electricity, etc.** : to begin to work or function • The lights *went on* briefly and then went out again. **6** : to form an opinion or conclusion from something — used in the phrase *to go on* • There's very little evidence *to go on*. [=there's very little evidence that can be used to form an opinion] **7 a** — used in speech to urge someone to do something • *Go on* (and try it): you might actually like it! • "I probably shouldn't have any more ice cream." "Oh, *go on*! It won't hurt you to have a little more." **b chiefly Brit, informal + old-fashioned** — used in speech to express disbelief • "I used to be a spy." "Oh, *go on*." • A spy? *Go on with you*, then. [=I don't believe you] **8 go on at (someone)** *chiefly Brit, informal* : to criticize (someone) often or repeatedly • Quit *going on at* me all the time! — see also *going on* at ²GOING

go one better **1** : to achieve more : to move to a higher or better level • She qualified for the finals, then *went one better* and took first place. **2 go (someone or something) one better** : to do better or more than (someone or something) : to outdo (someone or something) • The company has *gone* its competitors *one better* by offering new customers a special discount.

go out [phrasal verb] **1** : to leave your home for an activity • I'm *going out* for a walk. I'll be back soon. • We're *going out* to get some lunch. • On Saturday nights he *goes out* drinking with his friends. **2** : to be sent from a person or place • The message *went out* by e-mail to all members of the staff. • Word has *gone out* that snow is expected. • *Our thoughts and prayers go out to* all the victims of this tragedy. [=we are thinking of and praying for all the victims of this tragedy] **3** : to stop being popular or fashionable • That hairstyle *went out* years ago. • Short skirts have *gone out of fashion*. **4 a** : to meet someone for a romantic social activity : to go on a date with someone • They *went out* a couple of times, but it was never serious. **b** : to have a continuing romantic relationship with someone • I've been *going out* with her for quite a while now. = We've been *going out* for quite a while now. **5** : to stop working • The electricity suddenly *went out*; *especially* : to stop shining or burning • The fire/candle *went out*. • All the lights suddenly *went out*. **6 chiefly US** : to try to become a member of a team, group, etc. — usually + *for* • He *went out for*



football last year. = He *went out for* the football team last year. • She *went out* [=tried out] for the school play. **7** *of the tide* : to drop to a lower level • The tide is *going out* [= (more formally) *ebbing*] now. **8** : to be broadcast on the radio, television, etc. • A distress call *went out* three hours ago. — often + *over* • Warnings about the approaching storm *went out over* the radio.

go over [phrasal verb] **1** : to move or travel to a particular place or person • He *went over* and stood by the window. • He *went over* and hugged her. • I think I see Jane. Let's *go over* and say hello. — often + *to* • He *went over to* the window. • He *went over to* her and hugged her. **2** : to change sides in a disagreement, competition, etc. — usually + *to* • After several years of supporting us, he *went over to* our competitors. **3** *US* : to be accepted or received in a particular way • He tried to make a joke but it *went over* badly. [=no one thought his joke was funny] • Her proposal didn't *go over* very well. — often + *with* • Her proposal didn't *go over* very well *with* the boss. [=the boss didn't like her proposal] **4** *go over* (something) **a** : to talk about or think about (something) carefully • He *went over* all the arguments before making up his mind. • We *went over* the accident again and again in our minds. **b** : to look at or study (something) again in order to correct it, learn it, etc. • The students were told to *go over* their essays. • Let's *go over* the instructions. • an actress *going over* her lines

go the distance see ¹DISTANCE

go there informal : to start to talk or think about something — usually used in negative statements • "Do you remember when we were dating?" "Let's not *go there*." = "I don't want to *go there*." = "Don't *go there*." [=I don't want to talk about that]

go through [phrasal verb] **1** *go through* (something) **a** : to study or look at (something) in a careful way • The book *goes through* every detail of the French Revolution. • Let's *go through* the plan one more time. **b** : to look in or at (something) in order to find something : to search in or through (something) • I found him *going through* my closet. **c** : to experience (something) • He's *going through* a painful divorce. • I understand what you're *going through*. • In order to learn the job well, you have to *go through* several months of training. • The book has already *gone through* four editions. [=the publishers have already released four editions of the book] **d** : to spend or use all of (something) • He *went through* all the money he inherited. • They *went through* three bottles of wine with dinner. **e** : to occur throughout (something) • A note of despair *goes through* the narrative. [=there is a note of despair throughout the narrative] ♦ If something (such as an idea or a song) is *going through your head/mind*, you are thinking about it or remembering it. • I don't know what was *going through her mind* [=I don't know what her thoughts were; I don't know why she did this] when she agreed to help him. • That song keeps *going through my head*. **f** : to do (something) • It took him about an hour to *go through* his usual morning routine. • Before we practice the next section, let's *go through* the chorus once again. — see also *go through the motions* at ¹MOTION **2** ♦ Something (such as a law or contract) that *goes through* is officially accepted and approved. • The bill is expected to *go through* easily. • The proposed deal failed to *go through*. • The bill *went through Congress/Parliament* [=was passed by Congress/Parliament] without difficulty and soon became law. **3** *go through with* (something) : to do (something) that you have thought or talked about • He was always threatening to quit his job, but I never thought he'd actually *go through with* it. [=I never thought he would actually do it]

go to [phrasal verb] **1** *go to* (something) : to begin to be in (a particular state, condition, or situation) • You need to *go to sleep*. • The countries *went to war*. **2** *go to* (someone or something) : to be given to (someone or something) • First prize *went to* the team from Chicago. • The property will *go to* his wife if he dies before she does. **3** *go to* (trouble or expense) *chiefly US* : to do something that causes you (trouble or expense) • You shouldn't *go to all this trouble* just for me. • They *went to a lot of expense* [=they spent a lot of money] to make sure that the job was done correctly.

go together [phrasal verb] **1** *not used in progressive tenses* : to be suited to or appropriate for each other • The tie and his suit *go together* well. — see also GO WITH 2 (below) **2** *somewhat old-fashioned* : to have a continuing romantic relationship • They've been *going together* for several years. — see also GO WITH (below)

go to show/prove : to help show or prove something • Her success *goes to show* that if you work hard, you can make your dreams come true.

go toward(s) [phrasal verb] *go toward(s) (something)* : to help pay for (something) • My extra income is *going towards* a new car. • Your donations will *go toward* better sanitation for refugees.

go under [phrasal verb] **1** : to sink below the surface of the water • The ship *went under* after being struck by a torpedo. **2** : to fail : to not succeed • The company has been losing money and is in danger of *going under*.

go up [phrasal verb] **1** : to rise to a higher level • Prices are expected to *go up* soon. **2** : to become brighter • The lights *went up* [=the lights were turned up] when the movie ended. **3** : to be built • A new store is *going up* downtown. **4** : to travel to a place (especially one that is to the north) • We *went up to* the lake for the weekend.

go with [phrasal verb] **1** *go with* (someone) : to have a continuing romantic relationship with (someone) : to date (someone) • I've been *going with* her for quite a while now. — see also GO OUT 4b (above), GO TOGETHER 2 (above) **2** *go with* (something) **a** : to be suitable for or appropriate with (something) • The skirt she's wearing doesn't really *go with* [=match] her blouse. • The tie *goes* (well) *with* his suit. • Do you think this wine will *go well with* dinner? — see also GO TOGETHER 1 (above) **b** : to exist or occur as a necessary part of (something) • If I want the job I have to accept the stress that *goes with* it. • There are a lot of responsibilities that *go with* starting your own business. — see also *go with the territory* at TERRITORY **3** *go with* (someone or something) : to choose or use (someone or something) • After thinking about who to offer the job to, they decided to *go with* the more experienced candidate. • The golfer *went with* an iron off the tee. [=the golfer used an iron for her tee shot]

go without [phrasal verb] *go without or go without (something)* : to not have (something) : to live or continue without having (something) • How long can you *go without* sleeping/sleep? • If you can't afford a new car, you'll just have to *go without*.

here goes (nothing) see ¹HERE

here/there you go (again) informal — used to say that something is happening again or in the same way that it has happened before • *There you go*, making a big deal out of nothing. • When I saw his name in the headlines I thought, "*Here we go again*."

how goes it? — used as an informal greeting • Hi Paul. *How goes it?* [=how are you?]

ready, set, go see ¹READY

there go/goes informal — used to say that something is no longer available or possible • Look at that traffic jam! *There goes* our only chance of arriving on time. [=our only chance of arriving on time is gone/lost] • It's supposed to rain this weekend, so *there go* our plans for a barbecue. [=we won't be able to have a barbecue]

to go **1** : still remaining • There are only three more days *to go* until my birthday! **2** *US, of food* : sold to be taken away and eaten somewhere else • "I'd like a hamburger." "For here or *to go*?" "*To go*."

²**go** noun, *pl goes*

1 [count] : an attempt to do something • "I can't get the window open." "Let me *have a go* (at it)." [=let me try to do it] • She's been thinking about learning to fly for many years, and she's finally decided to *give it a go*. [=she's finally decided to try doing it] • (*chiefly Brit*) He managed to finish the work *in/at one go*. [=in one attempt, without stopping] • (*chiefly Brit*) I don't know if this new medicine will help, but I think it's *worth a go*. [=it's worth a try]

2 [singular] *US, informal* : permission to do something • My boss gave the project a *go*. [=my boss gave permission for the project to go ahead] ♦ In informal U.S. English, if you say that something *is a go*, you mean that it will or can happen in the way that was planned or hoped for. • The rocket launch *is a go*. • After many delays, we finally received word that the project *is a go*. If you say *all systems (are) go*, you mean that everything is working correctly so that something can continue or proceed in the planned or expected way. • NASA officials have declared *all systems go* for the rocket launch. • The problems have been fixed, and now *all systems are go*.

3 [noncount] *chiefly Brit, informal* : energy that makes someone want to do many things • a young reporter who's full of *go* — see also GET-UP-AND-GO

4 [count] *Brit* : a turn in a game or other activity • It's your *go*: they've had several *goes* already.

all go *Brit, informal* : full of activity : very busy • In this office it's *all go* all day without a break.

have a go at *Brit, informal* : to attack or criticize (someone) • The press is *having a go at* the Prime Minister.

make a go of : to succeed in doing (something) • He tried starting his own business, but he wasn't able to *make a go of* it. [=he wasn't able to succeed]

no go *US, informal* — used to say that something will not be allowed or cannot be done • We tried and tried to get the computer running but it was just *no go*. • I asked my boss for more time to finish the project, but she said *no go*. [=she said I could not have more time]

on the go **1** : very active or busy • a housewife and mother who's always *on the go* **2** *chiefly Brit* : happening or going • They have several projects *on the go* at the same time.

1 **goad** /'goud/ *verb* **goads**; **goad-ed**; **goad-ing** [+ *obj*] : to urge or force (someone) to do something • He was *goaded* (on) by a sense of duty. • The threat of legal action should *goad* them into complying/compliance.

2 **goad** *noun, pl* **goads** [count]

1 : a pointed rod used to make an animal move forward

2 : someone or something that urges or forces someone to do something • The threat of legal action is a powerful *goad* to companies that have ignored the regulations.

1 **go-ahead** /'gowə,hed/ *noun*

the go-ahead : permission to do something • We've finally been *given the go-ahead* for the project. • The company *received/got the go-ahead* to manufacture the new drug. — see also *go ahead* at **1** GO

2 **go-ahead** *adj, always used before a noun*

1 *US, sports* : allowing a team to take the lead in a game • He scored the *go-ahead* run/touchdown/goal.

2 [more ~; most ~] *Brit* : having a lot of energy and desire to try new ideas and methods • a vigorous *go-ahead* company — see also *go ahead* at **1** GO

goal /'goul/ *noun, pl* **goals** [count]

1 : something that you are trying to do or achieve • He set a *goal* for himself of exercising at least three times a week. • Her primary/long-term *goal* is to get a college degree. • We all share/have a common *goal*. • She pursued her *goal* of starting her own business. • The company has instituted several new policies with the *goal* of reducing waste. • achieve/accomplish/reach/realize a *goal*

2 a : an area or object into which a ball or puck must be hit, kicked, etc., to score points in various games (such as soccer and hockey) ♦ If you are the player who guards the goal in a sport like hockey or soccer, your position is *in goal*. • He has played brilliantly *in goal* so far this year. ♦ In U.S. English, a shot or kick that is *on goal* is directed at the goal. • They had a dozen shots *on goal* in the second period. **b** : the act of hitting, kicking, etc., a ball or puck into a goal or the score that results from doing this • Last month he had 10 *goals* and six assists. • She scored the winning *goal* in the game's final minute. • The team was ahead by a *goal* [=was ahead by one] when the third period started. — see also **FIELD GOAL**

— **goal-less** /'goulləs/ *adj* • After playing the first half, both teams were still *goalless*. [=neither team had scored a goal]

goal-ie /'gouli/ *noun, pl* **-ies** [count] : a player who defends the goal in a game (such as soccer or hockey)

goal-keep-er /'goul,ki:pə/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [count] : a player who defends the goal in various games (especially soccer) — compare **GOALTENDER**

— **goal-keep-ing** /'goul,ki:pɪŋ/ *noun* [noncount]

goal line *noun, pl* ~ **lines** [count] : a line that must be crossed to score a goal in soccer, hockey, football, etc.

goal mouth *noun, pl* ~ **mouths** [count] : the area directly in front of the goal in soccer, hockey, etc.

goal-post /'goul,poust/ *noun, pl* **-posts** [count] : one of two upright posts that form part of the goal in various games (such as soccer, hockey, and football)

move/shift the goalposts *Brit* : to change the rules or requirements in a way that makes success more difficult

goal-tend-er /'goul,tendə/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [count] *US* : a player who defends the goal in various games (especially hockey) — compare **GOALKEEPER**

— **goal-tend-ing** /'goul,tendɪŋ/ *noun* [noncount]

go-around /'gowə,raʊnd/ *noun, pl* **-arounds** [count] *chiefly US, informal* : GO-ROUND

goat /'gout/ *noun, pl* **goats**

1 [count] : a small animal that is related to the sheep

2 *the goat* *US* : a person who is blamed for a loss or failure • In the last inning, a home run can make you the hero, and a strikeout can make you *the goat*.

get your goat *informal* ♦ If something gets your goat, it upsets you or irritates you. • The way she's always correcting other people really gets my goat!

old goat *informal* — used as an insulting way to refer to an old man

• She got married to some rich *old goat*.

separate the sheep from the goats see **1** SEPARATE

goat cheese *noun, pl* ~ **cheeses** [count, noncount] *chiefly US* : a cheese that is made from goat's milk

goa-tee /'gou'ti:/ *noun, pl* **-tees** [count] : a small pointed beard on a man's chin — see picture at **BEARD**

— **goa-teed** /'gou'ti:d/ *adj* • a *goateed* man

goat-herd /'gout,həd/ *noun, pl* **-herds** [count] : a person who watches over a herd of goats

goat-skin /'gout,skin/ *noun, pl* **-skins** [count, noncount] : leather made from the skin of a goat • *goatskin* gloves

1 **gob** /'ga:b/ *noun, pl* **gobs**

1 [count] : a lump of something • There's a *gob* of gum stuck to the bottom of my shoe.

2 **gobs** [plural] *US, informal* : a large amount of something • They make *gobs* of money. • She wore *gobs* of makeup.

— compare **2** GOB

2 **gob** *noun, pl* **gobs** [count] *Brit slang* : MOUTH • Shut your *gob*! — compare **1** GOB

gob-bet /'ga:bət/ *noun, pl* **-bets** [count] *chiefly Brit* : a small lump or piece of something • *gobbets* of meat : a small amount of something • *gobbets* of information

1 **gob-ble** /'ga:bəl/ *verb* **gob-bles**; **gob-bled**; **gob-bling** [+ *obj*]

1 : to swallow or eat (something) quickly • We *gobbled* our meal and rushed back to work. — usually + *down* or *up* • He *gobbled down* a sandwich. • The children are afraid that monsters will *gobble* them *up*.

2 : to take (something) quickly or suddenly — usually + *up* • The local bank was *gobbled up* by a national conglomerate.

— compare **2** GOBBLE

2 **gobble** *verb* **gobbles**; **gobbled**; **gobbling** [no *obj*] : to make the sound that a male turkey makes • The actor *gobbled* like a turkey and quacked like a duck. — compare **1** GOBBLE

— **gobble** *noun, pl* **gobbles** [count] • We heard the *gobble* of a turkey.

gob-ble-dy-gook *also* **gob-ble-de-gook** /'ga:bəldi,guk/ *noun* [noncount] *informal* : speech or writing that is complicated and difficult to understand • The report is just a bunch of *gobbledygook*.

gob-bler /'ga:blə/ *noun, pl* **-blers** [count] : a male turkey

go-between /'goubə,twi:n/ *noun, pl* **-tweens** [count] : a person who talks to people or groups who disagree in order to help deal with or end the disagreement • He'll act/serve as a *go-between* during the negotiations.

gob-let /'ga:blət/ *noun, pl* **-lets** [count] : a container used for drinking liquids that has a round bowl on top of a stem attached to a flat base

gob-lin /'ga:blən/ *noun, pl* **-lins** [count] *in stories* : an ugly and sometimes evil creature that likes to cause trouble

gob-smacked /'ga:b,smækt/ *adj* [more ~; most ~] *Brit, informal* : very surprised or shocked : DUMBSTRUCK • I was (really) *gobsmacked* by the news!

god /'ga:d/ *noun*

1 **God** [singular] **a** : the perfect and all-powerful spirit or being that is worshipped especially by Christians, Jews, and Muslims as the one who created and rules the universe • Does she believe in *God*? • (May) *God* bless us all. • (May) *God* rest her soul. [=I pray that God will give her soul peace now that she has died] • I pray to *God* that no one was seriously injured in the accident. — see also **MAN OF GOD** **b** ♦ *God* is used informally by itself and in phrases to make a statement or question more forceful or to express surprise, anger, etc. These uses are common but are considered offensive by some people. • *God*, it's hot out today. • *Good God*, that's a lot of food! • *God Almighty*, is it that late already? • *My God*, what were you thinking?! • *Oh my God*! I can't believe it! • *By God*, I refuse to give up! • *For God's sake*, what



goat

do you want from me? • Who in God's name [=on earth, in heaven's name] could that be? • Where in God's name have you been? • I swear to God, if you're not ready in five minutes, I'm leaving without you. • I wish to God you would stop complaining.

2 [count] : a spirit or being that has great power, strength, knowledge, etc., and that can affect nature and the lives of people : one of various spirits or beings worshipped in some religions • the gods and goddesses of ancient Egypt • a Hindu god • a myth about the god of war • an offering for the gods — often used informally to suggest that what happens to someone is controlled by gods or by luck • The gods smiled/frowned on us. = The gods were/weren't on our side [=we had good/bad luck; things went well/badly for us] • (humorous) The golf gods seem to like you today. [=you are playing golf very well today] • Her sudden arrival was a gift from the gods. [=a very lucky and helpful thing]

3 [count] **a** : a person and especially a man who is greatly loved or admired • a professor who was regarded as a kind of god • a guitar god like Jimi Hendrix **b** : a person who is very important or powerful in a particular field — usually plural • a talented writer who never found favor with the gods of the literary world

4 [singular] : something that is regarded as one of the most important things in someone's life • He made a god of money. [=he worshipped money; he regarded money as more important than it really is]

5 the gods Brit : the highest and cheapest seats in a theater • The people in the gods can be the hardest to please.

act of God see ¹ACT

for the love of God see ¹LOVE

God bless you see BLESS

God forbid see FORBID

God help someone see ¹HELP

God knows see ¹KNOW

God's gift see ¹GIFT

God willing — used to say what you hope and expect to do or happen if no problems occur • We'll be able to move into our new house next week, God willing. • God willing, I'll finish my degree this year.

in the lap of the gods see ¹LAP

play God see ¹PLAY

put the fear of God into see ¹FEAR

so help me God see ¹HELP

thank God see THANK

(there) but for the grace of God (go I) see ¹GRACE

— god-like /'gɑ:d,laɪk/ adj

god-aw-ful /gɑd'ɑ:fəl/ adj [more ~; most ~] informal + sometimes offensive : very bad or unpleasant : AWFUL • god-awful [=terrible] weather • a god-awful [=hideous] hat

god-child /'gɑ:d,tʃaɪld/ noun, pl -child-ren /-,tʃɪldrən/ [count] : a child that you promise to help teach and guide in religious matters when you become the child's godparent in a Christian baptism ceremony • My niece is also my godchild.

god-damn also **god-dam** /,gɑ:d,dæm/ or **god-damned** /,gɑ:d,dæmd/ adj, always used before a noun, informal + impolite : DAMN • I don't want to hear another goddamn lie. • He's nothing but a goddamn fool!

usage Goddamn is an angry word that many people find offensive.

— **god-damn** also **god-dam** /,gɑ:d,dæm/ or **god-damned** /,gɑ:d,dæmd/ adv • It's too goddamn late to be talking about this. — **god-damn** also **god-dam** /'gɑ:d,dæm/ noun [singular] • I don't give a goddamn what you think. [=I don't care at all about what you think] — **god-damn** also **god-dam** /'gɑ:d,dæm/ interj • God-damn! That sauce is hot! — **god-damn** also **god-dam** /'gɑ:d,dæm/ verb [+ obj] • Goddamn these detours! • I'll be goddamned if I let this stop me. [=I will not let this stop me] • Goddamn it. They're gone.

god-daugh-ter /'gɑ:d,da:tə/ noun, pl -ters [count] : a female godchild

god-dess /'gɑ:d,des/ noun, pl -dess-es [count]

1 : a female god (sense 2) • a goddess of ancient Greece

2 : a woman who is greatly loved or admired • The actress, who is already a goddess in her own country, is finally getting recognition here.

god-fa-ther /'gɑ:d,fɑ:ðə/ noun, pl -thers [count]

1 : a man who is a godparent • Her uncle is her godfather.

2 a : a man who invents or begins something • Many people regard him as the godfather of rock and roll. **b** usually God-

father : the leader of a group of criminals who belong to a secret criminal organization (such as the Mafia)

God-fear-ing /'gɑ:d,fɪrɪŋ/ adj [more ~; most ~] — used to describe religious people who try to obey the rules of their religion and to live in a way that is considered morally right • They are hardworking, God-fearing people.

god-for-sak-en /'gɑ:dfə,seɪkən/ adj, always used before a noun [more ~; most ~] of a place : not at all interesting or appealing and usually located far from interesting people and places • a godforsaken little town • Who would want to visit such a godforsaken place?

God-giv-en /'gɑ:d'gɪvən/ adj : received as a gift from God • She has a God-given [=natural] talent for making friends. • God-given athletic skills

God-head /'gɑ:d,hed/ noun

the Godhead formal : GOD 1; especially : God as considered by Christians to be made up of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit • praying to the Godhead

god-less /'gɑ:dləs/ adj [more ~; most ~] disapproving : not believing in God • a godless people/society • a godless place [=a place where no one believes in God] • godless ideologies — **god-less-ness** noun [noncount]

god-ly /'gɑ:dli/ adj **god-li-er; -est** [or more ~; most ~] old-fashioned : believing in God and in the importance of living a moral life • a godly person • She lived a godly life.

— **god-li-ness** noun [noncount] • Cleanliness is next to godliness. [=it is almost as important to be clean as it is to be good]

god-moth-er /'gɑ:d,mʌðə/ noun, pl -ers [count] : a woman who is a godparent • Her aunt is also her godmother. — see also FAIRY GODMOTHER

god-par-ent /'gɑ:d,pərənt/ noun, pl -ents [count] : a person who promises to help teach and guide someone in religious matters as part of a Christian baptism ceremony : a godfather or godmother • My aunt and uncle are also my godparents.

god-send /'gɑ:d,send/ noun, pl -sends [count]

1 : something that provides great and usually unexpected help when it is needed — usually singular • The treatment is a godsend for people who suffer from this condition.

2 : a very helpful person — usually singular • I didn't want to hire her but she's turned out to be a real godsend.

god-son /'gɑ:d,sən/ noun, pl -sons [count] : a male godchild

God-speed /'gɑ:d'spi:d/ noun [noncount] formal + old-fashioned — used to wish success to someone who is going away • We wish you Godspeed. — sometimes used as an interjection • Goodbye and Godspeed to you.

go-er /'gəʊə/ noun, pl -ers [count] informal

1 chiefly Brit : someone or something that goes or moves fast • The horse is a real goer.

2 Brit : a woman who has sex with many men • She had a reputation as a bit of a goer.

— **go-er** combining form, pl -goers [count] : someone who often goes to a particular kind of place, event, etc. • moviegoers • churchgoers : someone who goes to a particular event or activity • partygoers

goes see GO

go-fer /'gəʊfə/ noun, pl -fers [count] informal : a person whose job is to do various small and usually boring jobs for other people

go-get-ter /'gəʊ'getə/ noun, pl -ters [count] informal : a person who works very hard and who wants very much to succeed • She's always been a real go-getter.

— **go-get-ting** /'gəʊ,ɡetɪŋ/ adj, always used before a noun • a go-getting attitude

gog-gle /'gɑ:ɡl/ verb **gog-gles; gog-gled; gog-gling** [no obj] informal : to look at something or someone with your eyes very open in a way that shows that you are surprised, amazed, etc. • He goggled in amazement at the huge statue.

gog-gle-eyed /'gɑ:ɡl,aɪd/ adj, informal : with the eyes very open in a way that shows surprise, amazement, etc. • He stared at me goggle-eyed. • a goggle-eyed child

gog-gles /'gɑ:ɡlz/ noun [plural] : special eyeglasses that fit close to your face and that are worn to protect your eyes • swimming/ski goggles • safety goggles

go-go /'gəʊ,gəʊ/ adj, always used before a noun

1 — used to describe a woman who performs as a dancer to fast, energetic, popular music in a nightclub • go-go dancers • go-go girls

2 chiefly US : relating to or involved in a time when many

businesses are growing quickly and it is possible to make a lot of money • He made a fortune during the market's *go-go* years. • a *go-go* economy

¹**go-ing** /ˈɡoʊɪŋ/ noun, pl -ings

1 [count] : the act of leaving a place — usually singular • We were disappointed to learn of her *going*. [=departure]

2 [noncount] **a** : the condition of the ground for walking, running, etc. • The muddy ground made for slippery *going*. [=the muddy ground was slippery] • Debris in the street made the *going* difficult. • The *going* got better as we neared the town. **b** — used to describe a situation in which you are trying to make progress or do something • It's been *slow going* so far [=progress has been slow so far], but the project should speed up soon. • The report is pretty *hard/heavy going*. [=it is quite difficult to understand] • This is a big job, and it's going to be *rough/tough going* [=hard work; a difficult situation] for a while. • What will you do *when the going gets tough*? [=when it becomes difficult to continue or to make progress] • You know what they say—*when the going gets tough, the tough get going*. [=when there are problems, strong people work hard to solve them] • (chiefly Brit) Let's get what we can *while the going is good*. [=while there is a good opportunity]

3 [noncount] chiefly Brit : forward movement, speed, or progress • She wrote four books in two years, and that's pretty good *going* by any standards!

comings and goings : the activity of people arriving at and leaving a place • I sat and watched the *comings and goings* of the other museum visitors.

²**going** adj

1 always used after a noun, informal : living or existing • He's the best novelist *going*. • They make the best chili *going*. [=the best chili that there is]

2 always used before a noun : current or usual — used to describe an amount of money (such as a price or salary) • What's the *going* price? • They offered to pay the *going* rate [=the rate usually paid] for her services.

going on : coming closer to (something, such as an age) • Their daughter is six years old *going on* seven. • It's *going on* 10 years since I saw him last. [=I haven't seen him for almost 10 years]

-going combining form : often or regularly going to a particular kind of place, event, etc. • the theater*going* public [=the people who often go to see plays performed] • church*going* people

going concern noun, pl ~-cerns [count] : a business that is making a profit • They had a difficult start, but they've turned the restaurant into a *going concern*.

go-ing-over /ˌɡoʊɪŋˈoʊvər/ noun [singular]

1 : a careful examination • I'll give the documents a (thorough) *going-over*. [=I'll read the documents carefully]

2 informal : a severe beating • They threatened to give him a (good) *going-over* if he didn't cooperate.

— see also *go over* at ¹GO

go-ings-on /ˌɡoʊɪŋzˈɑːn/ noun [plural] : actions or events that are occurring : things that are happening • We heard about all the strange *goings-on* [=happenings] at the office. — see also *go on* at ¹GO

goi-ter (US) or chiefly Brit **gol-tre** /ˈɡoɪtər/ noun, pl -ters [count, noncount] medical : a swelling on the front of the neck caused by the thyroid gland becoming too large

go-kart /ˈɡoʊ,kɑːrt/ noun, pl -karts [count] : a small car that has one or two seats and an open top and that is used especially for racing

¹**gold** /ˈɡoʊld/ noun, pl **golds**

1 [noncount] : a soft yellow metal that is very valuable and that is used especially in jewelry • diamonds in a setting of 24-karat *gold* • What is the price of *gold*? • miners digging for *gold* • solid/pure *gold* — see also **FOOL'S GOLD**

2 [noncount] : gold coins • a bag of *gold* — often used figuratively • All the *gold* [=money, wealth] in the world won't make you happy. • She's chasing after a *pot of gold* (at the end of the rainbow). [=something impossible to get or achieve]

3 [count, noncount] : a deep yellow color — see color picture on page C2

4 [count] : GOLD MEDAL • She hopes to bring home a *gold*. • She is *going for the gold*. [=trying to win the gold medal]

(as) good as gold : very good • The children were *as good as gold* this morning. • His word is *as good as gold*. [=you can always trust him to do what he says he will do]

strike gold see ¹STRIKE

worth your weight in gold : very useful, valuable, or im-

portant • Good teachers are *worth their weight in gold*. • An experience like that is *worth its weight in gold*.

²**gold** adj

1 : made of or from gold • *gold* jewelry • *gold* bullion

2 : having a gold color • the *gold* [=golden] glow of the sun • *gold* paint

gold digger noun, pl ~-gers [count] informal : a woman who becomes or tries to become romantically involved with a rich man in order to get money and gifts from him

gold-en /ˈɡoʊldən/ adj

1 : made of gold • a *golden* idol • *golden* jewelry

2 [more ~; most ~] : having the deep yellow color of gold • *golden* hair • fields of *golden* wheat

3 [more ~; most ~] : very happy and successful • The memoir recounts the *golden* times in her life. • a *golden* era — see also GOLDEN AGE, GOLDEN YEARS

4 [more ~; most ~] : very excellent : SUPERB, WONDERFUL • This is a *golden* opportunity. [=a wonderful opportunity; an excellent chance to do or get something]

5 : very talented, popular, and successful — used in the phrases *golden* boy and *golden* girl • He was once the *golden* boy of tennis, but now few people remember his name. • She's the *golden* girl of the newspaper business.

6 [more ~; most ~] : having a rich and smooth sound • a smooth *golden* voice

7 not used before a noun, informal : in a very good or fortunate position or situation • If the bank approves the loan, we're *golden*.

8 always used before a noun : of or relating to the 50th anniversary of an important event (such as a marriage) • They will celebrate their *golden* (wedding) anniversary this year. = (Brit) They will celebrate their *golden* wedding this year. • a *golden* jubilee — compare DIAMOND, SILVER

golden goose or the goose that lays the golden egg see ¹GOOSE

silence is golden see ¹SILENCE

golden age noun, pl ~ ages [count] : a time of great happiness, success, and achievement • the *golden* age of art/literature • a *golden* age for our country

gold-en-ag-er /ˈɡoʊldənˈeɪdʒər/ noun, pl -ers [count] US : an old and often retired person : SENIOR CITIZEN • a club for *golden-agers*

golden eagle noun, pl ~ eagles [count] : a very large bird that lives in the northern parts of the world and that is dark brown with yellow feathers on the back of its head and neck

golden handcuffs noun [plural] : the salary and benefits that stop a highly paid employee from choosing to leave a job

golden handshake noun, pl ~-shakes [count] : a large amount of money that a company gives to an employee who is leaving the company

golden oldie noun, pl ~-ies [count] informal : a song, recording, or television show that was very popular in the past • The radio station plays *golden oldies* from the 1950s.

golden parachute noun, pl ~-chutes [count] : a large amount of money that a company pays to an executive who is being forced to leave the company

golden raisin noun, pl ~-sins [count] US : a dried grape that is a brownish-yellow color and is used for food — called also (chiefly Brit) *sultana*

golden retriever noun, pl ~-ers [count] : a type of dog that has long yellowish-brown fur — see picture at DOG

gold-en-rod /ˈɡoʊldənˈrɑːd/ noun [noncount] : a type of wild plant that has large groups of yellow flowers

golden rule noun, pl ~ rules

1 the *Golden Rule* : a general rule for how to behave that says that you should treat people the way you would like other people to treat you • I try to live by the *Golden Rule*.

2 [count] : an important rule to follow when you do something • The *golden* rule in sales is to know your customer.

golden years noun [plural] : the late years in someone's life : the time of life when someone is old • My grandparents were active well into their *golden* years. [=old age]

gold-finch /ˈɡoʊldˌfɪntʃ/ noun, pl -finch-es [count]

1 : a small mostly yellow American bird — see color picture on page C9

2 : a small European bird that has red on its head and yellow and black wings

gold-fish /ˈɡoʊldˌfɪʃ/ noun, pl **goldfish** [count] : a small usually orange fish that people often keep in ponds or in fishbowls or tanks as a pet



goldfish bowl *noun*, *pl* ~ **bowls** [count] : a place or condition in which there is no privacy • celebrities who cannot escape from the *goldfish bowl* of constant publicity

gold leaf *noun* [noncount] : a very thin sheet of gold used especially to decorate a surface • a frame covered with *gold leaf*

gold medal *noun*, *pl* ~ **-dals** [count] : a medal made of gold that is awarded as the prize for first place in a sports competition • He won three *gold medals* in the Olympics. — compare BRONZE MEDAL, SILVER MEDAL

gold mine *noun*, *pl* ~ **mines** [count]

1 : a place where gold is dug from the ground : a mine that produces gold

2 : something that has or produces a lot of something desired (such as money) • When she was the manager, the restaurant was a (real/veritable) *gold mine*! [=it was very profitable] • The library is a *gold mine* of information.

gold-plated /'gould'pleɪtəd/ *adj* : covered with a thin layer of gold • a *gold-plated* serving tray

gold record *noun*, *pl* ~ **-cords** [count] : an award that is given to a singer or musical group for selling a lot of recordings — compare PLATINUM RECORD

gold rush *noun*, *pl* ~ **rushes** [count] : a situation in which many people go quickly to a place where gold has been discovered because they hope to find more gold and become rich • the California *gold rush* of 1849

goldsmith /'gould'smɪθ/ *noun*, *pl* **-smiths** [count] : a person who makes gold jewelry and other gold items

gold standard *noun*

the gold standard 1 : a system in which a unit of money (such as the dollar) is equal to a particular amount of gold • It was the early 20th century, and the United States was still on *the gold standard*. 2 : something that is considered to be the best and that is used to judge the quality or level of other, similar things • This car is *the gold standard* for luxury automobiles. • *the gold standard* of stylish resorts

golf /'gɑ:l/ *noun* [noncount] : an outdoor game in which players use special clubs (called golf clubs) to try to hit a small ball with as few strokes as possible into each of 9 or 18 holes • playing some *golf* • a round of *golf*

— **golf** *verb* golfs; golfed; golfing [no obj] • He likes to *golf*. [=to play golf] — **golf-er** *noun*, *pl* **-ers** [count] • She's an excellent *golfer*. — **golf-ing** /'gɑ:lɪŋ/ *noun* [noncount] • She enjoys photography and *golfing*. [=playing golf]

golf ball *noun*, *pl* ~ **balls** [count] : a small ball used in the game of golf — see picture at BALL

golf cart *noun*, *pl* ~ **carts** [count] : a small car that is used to carry golfers and their equipment around a golf course

golf club *noun*, *pl* ~ **clubs** [count]

1 : a special long stick with a larger part at the bottom that is used to hit the ball in golf • She bought a new set of *golf clubs*.

2 : an organization whose members play golf • He joined a *golf club* last year; also : the golf course where the members of such an organization play • I'll meet you at the *golf club*.

golf course *noun*, *pl* ~ **courses** [count] : a large area of land set up for the game of golf

gol-ly /'gɑ:li/ *interj*, *old-fashioned* — used to express mild surprise • *Golly*, I never thought I'd see YOU here!

go-nad /'gou,næd/ *noun*, *pl* **-nads** [count] *technical* : a sex organ that produces sperm or eggs : a testicle or an ovary — called also *sex gland*

gon-do-la /'gɑ:ndələ/ *noun*, *pl* **-las** [count]

1 : a long narrow boat used on the canals of Venice

2 **a** : the part of a balloon or airship in which passengers or instruments are carried **b** : a vehicle that hangs from a cable and is used for carrying passengers (such as skiers) especially up a mountain

gon-do-lier /,gɑ:ndə'liə/ *noun*, *pl* **-liers** [count] : a person who operates a gondola (sense 1)

¹**gone** *past participle of* ¹GO

²**gone** /'gɑ:n/ *adj*, *not used before a noun*

1 : not present : no longer at a place • How long will he be *gone*? [=away, absent] • She should have been back by now. She's been *gone* for more than an hour.

2 **a** : no longer existing • The days of the horse and buggy are (long) *gone*. **b** : no longer living • There was nothing we

could do—he was already *gone*. [=dead]

3 **baseball** : hit over the fence for a home run • The outfielder went back to the fence and jumped, but the ball was *gone*.

4 **Brit, informal** : PREGNANT — used after a noun phrase indicating a length of time • She's six months *gone*. [=she became pregnant six months ago]

dead and gone see ¹DEAD

far gone see ¹FAR

gone on *informal* + *old-fashioned* : feeling strong or foolish love for (someone) • Those two are really *gone on* each other.

³**gone** *prep, Brit, informal* : AFTER, PAST • It was (just) *gone* six when he got back.

gon-er /'gɑ:nə/ *noun*, *pl* **-ers** [count] *informal* : someone or something that is going to die or that can no longer be used • I thought we were all *goners* [=were going to die] when the plane's engine stopped. • This old computer is a *goner*. We'll have to get a new one.

gong /'gɑ:ŋ/ *noun*, *pl* **gongs** [count]

1 : a large metal disc that makes a deep ringing sound when it is struck with a padded hammer • They sounded a *gong* to summon us to dinner. — see picture at PERCUSSION

2 **Brit, informal** : a medal or award

gon-na /'gʌnə, gənə/ — used in writing to represent the sound of the phrase *going to* when it is spoken quickly • I'm *gonna* [=going to] get you if it's the last thing I do! ♢ The pronunciation represented by *gonna* is common in informal speech. The written form should be avoided except when trying to represent or record such speech.

gon-or-rhea (US) or **Brit gon-or-rhoea** /,gɑ:nə'ri:ʃə/ *noun* [noncount] *medical* : a disease of the sex organs that is spread by sexual contact — called also (*slang*) *the clap*

gon-zo /'gɑ:nzou/ *adj*, *always used before a noun*, *chiefly US, informal* : having a very strange or unusual quality • *gonzo* humor • a *gonzo* comedian • *gonzo journalism* [=journalism that treats a subject in a very personal, unusual, and often shocking way]

goo /'gu:/ *noun* [noncount] *informal* : a wet and sticky substance • What's this *goo* all over the stove? — often used figuratively • The movie is nothing but a lot of romantic/sentimental *goo*. [=the movie is too romantic/sentimental] — see also GOOEY

goo-ber /'gu:bə/ *noun*, *pl* **-bers** [count] *US, informal* : PEANUT 1

¹**good** /'gud/ *adj* **bet-ter** /'betə/; **best** /'best/

1 **a** : of high quality • The food was *good*. = It was *good* food. • You'll need *better* tools for this job. • The car is in *good* condition/shape. • There are some *good* restaurants in this neighborhood. • That was a *good* game. [=the game was exciting, people played well, etc.] • I'm afraid your work is just not *good* enough. • Keep up the *good* work. • "Would you hire her again?" "Yes, I would. She *does good work*." • His most recent movie is *no good*. [=it is boring, poorly made, etc.] **b** : of somewhat high but not excellent quality • The food was *good* but not great. • He has done *good* but not outstanding work.

2 : correct or proper • *good* manners • *good* grammar • She speaks very *good* English. [=she uses correct pronunciation, grammar, etc.]

3 **a** : pleasant, pleasing, or enjoyable • Did you have a *good* time at the party? • We're expecting *good* weather for the weekend. • The soup tastes/smells *good*. • food that is *good* to eat • It feels *good* to sit down after so much walking. • It's a *good* feeling to know that we were able to help. • *good* [=happy] memories • I want to make a *good* [=favorable] impression on my future in-laws. • his rugged *good* looks [=attractive appearance] • You look *good* in that dress. = That dress looks *good* on you. • You don't look so *good*. [=you look like you feel sick] Do you feel okay? • *Have a good day!* = (US, informal) *Have a good one!* [=I hope you have an enjoyable day] — see also GOOD LIFE, GOOD-LOOKING **b** : not having, marked by, or relating to problems, troubles, etc. • *good* and bad news • They've been together in *good* times and bad. • I had a *good* feeling about the meeting. • Things are looking pretty *good* for the company right now. • a *good* omen • I had the *good* luck/fortune to meet her when I was in New York. — see also *good luck* at ¹LUCK **c** : adequate or suitable • It's a *good* day for a sail. • We need to have a meeting. Is tomorrow *good* [=convenient] for you? • He's a *good* person to contact if you're ever in trouble. • I need tires that are *good* (for driving) in snow. • These tires aren't *any good*. = These tires are *no good*. **d** : sensible or reasonable • She has a very



golf club

good reason for being angry. • He showed **good** judgment in buying a small car. • She gave us some **good** advice. • That's a very **good** question/point. • She had the **good** sense to ask for help. [=she showed that she is able to think in a reasonable way by asking for help] • It's a **good** idea to arrive early. • "We'd better arrive early." "**Good** idea/thinking." **e** : producing or likely to produce a pleasant or favorable result • a **good** deal/plan • a **good** risk/investment • a lot of **good** marketing ideas • It's a **good** time to be investing in the stock market. • Please accept our **best** wishes for your success. • "The plane arrived on time." "That's **good**." • Nothing **good** came of our efforts. • It's a **good** thing (that) you answered so quickly. = It was **good** that you answered so quickly. **f** : having a desired quality • We paid a **good** price [=a low price] for the tickets. • The painting should fetch/bring a **good** price [=a high price] when it's sold. • Did you get **good** [=high] grades in school? • We found a **good** parking space near the restaurant. • She has **good** taste in clothes. [=she likes clothes that are fashionable, of high quality, etc.] **g** : expressing approval or praise • a movie that has been getting **good** reviews • I've heard a lot of **good** things about you. **h** — used in speech as a response • "I'm ready to go when you are." "**Good**. Let's get going." • "I passed the exam!" "(Very) **Good**!" • "I passed the exam!" "**Good for you**!" = (chiefly Australia) "**Good on you**!" [=well done]

4 a : not marked or affected by injury or disease : **HEALTHY** • I went home early because I wasn't feeling too/very **good**. [=I wasn't feeling well; I was feeling sick] • Her health is pretty **good**. = She's in pretty **good** health. • The patient was reported to be in **good** condition following surgery. • His hearing is still **good** but his eyesight is pretty poor/bad. • my **good** arm/leg [=the arm/leg that is not injured or weak] **b** : not causing harm or trouble : causing something desired • a **good** [=healthy, healthful] diet • **good** nutrition • You've been a **good** influence on the kids. • **good** habits • **good cholesterol** [=a type of cholesterol that helps prevent a disease that stops your blood from flowing easily] — often + **for** • Regular exercise is **good for** you. [=regular exercise makes you healthier] • Hot soup is **good for** a cold. [=hot soup makes you feel better when you have a cold] • Being with friends is especially **good for** him right now.

5 a : not morally bad or wrong : morally proper or correct • a **good** person • **good** conduct/behavior • a woman/man of **good** character • Like most people, she has a **good** side and a bad side. • My intentions were **good**. • You did a **good** thing/deed when you helped that stranger. • He lived a **good** life. • It's hard to tell the **good guys** [=morally correct people/characters] from the bad guys in this movie. • She is admired for her many **good works**. [=for the many things she does to help poor people, sick people, etc.] • You should stay away from that guy. He's **no good**. [=he's a bad person] — see also **GOOD LIFE** **b** : kind or helpful • You've always been so **good** to me. • It was **good** of you to answer my request so quickly. — sometimes used to formally make a request • **Would you be good enough** to show me the way? = **Would you be so good** as to show me the way? [=would you please show me the way?] **c** : behaving properly : not causing trouble • a **good** dog • The children were very **good** today.

6 a : having or showing talent or skill : doing or able to do something well • She's a very **good** golfer. • a **good** musician/doctor/cook • He was really **good** in his last movie. [=he acted very well] • I don't know if I'm **good** enough to make the team. • I have a **good** memory. [=I am good at remembering things] • a **good** sense of direction [=an ability to find your way easily in a new place] • an agent with a **good eye** for new talent [=an agent who is good at finding talented people who are not yet known or famous] • It's a great school where you know your kids are **in good hands**. [=with people who are able to teach and take care of them well] • I'm confident the café will be **in good hands** with you in charge. — often + **at** • She's very **good at** (playing) golf. • He's not very/any **good at** expressing his feelings. = He's **no good at** expressing his feelings. — sometimes used in a joking way • I'm very/really **good at** saying the wrong thing. [=I often say things that make people uncomfortable, unhappy, etc.] — see also **no good, not any good** at **2GOOD** **b** : able to use something or to deal with something or someone well — + **with** • He's very **good with** his hands. [=he can easily make/do things with his hands] • She's **good with** children. [=she manages and interacts with children well; children like her and behave well when they are with her] **c** : having a tendency to do something — + **about** • He's **good about** writing everything down. [=he usually writes everything down] • I'm trying to be **better**

about exercising. [=I'm trying to exercise more often]

7 a : happy or pleased • I **feel good** about what happened. [=I'm pleased by what happened] • She **felt good** that she had remembered his birthday. = She **felt good** about remembering his birthday. • Helping other people makes me **feel good**. • She didn't **feel good** about having to fire her secretary. **b** : cheerful or calm • She's in a **good** mood. [=a happy mood] • He has a **good** temper. [=he is good-tempered; he doesn't become angry easily] • Everyone was in **good** spirits.

8 not used before a noun **a** — used to say how long something will continue or be valid • This offer is **good** only until the end of the month. • This offer is **good for** the remainder of the month. • Our old car should be **good for** a few more years. [=it should last a few more years; it should continue to operate for a few more years] **b** : still suitable to eat or drink : not spoiled • Is the milk still **good** or has it gone bad?

9 — used in phrases like **good heavens** and **good God** to express surprise or anger or to make a statement or question more forceful • **Good heavens**! You startled me! • "Do you agree with him?" "**Good God**, no!" • (somewhat old-fashioned) **Good gracious**, I completely forgot! — see also **good grief** at **GRIEF**

10 : causing laughter : **FUNNY** • I heard a **good** joke the other day. • "He says he's never met her." "That's a **good** one. [=that's amusing because it isn't true] I saw them together last week." • She's always **good for a laugh**. [=she is always funny]

11 a : large in size, amount, or quantity • The store has a **good** selection of products. • She won the election by a **good** [=considerable] margin. • He makes **good** money as a lawyer. = He makes a **good** living as a lawyer. [=he earns a lot of money] • They couldn't have succeeded without a **good deal** of luck. [=a lot of luck] • Things could be a **good deal** worse. [=things could be much worse] • Tourists have been coming to the area **in good numbers**. [=many tourists have been coming to the area] • an actress who has appeared in a **good number** of films [=in many films] **b** : not less or fewer than a particular amount : at least — used in the phrase a **good** • He weighs a **good** 200 pounds. • We waited a **good** hour. [=we waited at least an hour] • There are a **good** 80 people here.

12 always used before a noun : forceful or thorough • If you give the machine a **good** kick, it might start working again. • Give the bottle a **good** shake before you open it. • Take a **good** look at this. • You just need (to get) a **good** night's sleep. • We were scared when it happened, but we had a **good** laugh about it later.

13 : having a high social position or status • He comes from a **good** family. • She thinks her son is too **good** for me. • It's a **good** neighborhood.

14 always used before a noun **a** — used to describe people who know each other well and care about each other very much • She's a **good** [=close] friend of mine. = She and I are **good** friends. • my **good** friend/pal/buddy Joe **b** : showing true and constant support for someone • He's been a **good** friend to me. • I'm trying to be a **better** sister. **c** : belonging to and having loyalty to a group or organization • a **good** party member • a **good** Catholic

15 not used before a noun, sports **a of a serve or shot** : landing in the proper area of the court in tennis and similar games • I thought the ball/serve was **good** but my opponent said it was out. **b of a shot or kick** : successfully done • (basketball) The first foul shot was **good**, but he missed the second one. • (American football) The field goal was **good**. • (American football) The field goal was **no good**. [=the field goal was missed]

16 not used before a noun, informal : not wanting or needing anything more • "Would you like more coffee?" "No, thanks. I'm **good**." • "Here's the money I owed you. So we're **good** now, right?" "Yeah, we're **good**." [=we have settled our business; there is no longer any problem between us]

all in good time see **1TIME**

all well and good see **2WELL**

as good as : almost or nearly • The plan is **as good as** dead. • Those people **as good as** ruined the school with their foolish ideas!

(**as**) **good as gold** see **1GOLD**

as good as it gets informal **1** — used to say that nothing better is possible or available • It's not a great restaurant, but in this part of the city, it's **as good as it gets**. **2** — used to say that something is very good and cannot be improved • There's nothing I enjoy more than spending time at home with my family. That's **as good as it gets**.

as good as new see **1NEW**



fight the good fight see ¹FIGHT

for good measure see ¹MEASURE

give as good as you get see ¹GIVE

good and /ˌɡʊdn/ chiefly US, informal **1** : VERY • I hit him *good and* hard. • He was *good and* angry. • I like my coffee *good and* hot. **2** : completely or entirely • We'll leave when I'm *good and* ready.

good egg see ¹EGG

good for somewhat informal : able to provide or produce (something) • I'm *good for* a hundred dollars if you need a loan. — see also ¹GOOD 4b, 8a (above)

good for it informal : able to pay back a loan • Why won't you lend me the money? You know I'm *good for it*. [=you can trust me to pay it back]

good graces see ¹GRACE

good old informal — used before a noun to describe a familiar person or thing with affection or approval • *Good old* John: you can always count on him to help. • I don't need fancy shoes. I prefer *good old* sneakers. • They were talking about *the good old days*. [=happy times in the past] — see also GOOD OLD BOY

good riddance see RIDDANCE

good to go US, informal : ready to leave or to start doing something • We have all the tools and supplies we need, so we're *good to go*.

good word see ¹WORD

have it good : to be in a favorable position or situation • There's no reason for her to be so unhappy. She really *has it* (pretty) *good*. • He's *never had it so good*. [=he has never been in such a favorable situation]

have the good grace see ¹GRACE

hold good : to be true • The advice she gave us 10 years ago still *holds good* [(more commonly) *holds true*] today.

if you know what's good for you : if you want to avoid trouble, problems, etc. • You'll take my advice *if you know what's good for you*. • She'll forget about the whole thing *if she knows what's good for her*.

in good company see COMPANY

in good part see ¹PART

make good **1** : to become successful • It's a story about a kid from a small town trying to *make good* in the big city. ♦ If you *make good your escape*, you escape successfully. • The prisoners dug a tunnel under the fence and *made good their escape*. **2** : to do something that you have promised or threatened to do • He *made good* his promise. — usually + *on* in U.S. English • He *made good on* his promise. • They *made good on* their threat and forced the company to go out of business. **3 a** : to pay for (something) — usually + *on* • The insurance company was required to *make good on* the loss. **b** chiefly Brit : to repair (something) • The contract obliges you to *make good* any damaged windows.

so far, so good see ¹FAR

too good to be true — used to say that something cannot be as good as it seems to be • The price of the car is *too good to be true*. There must be something wrong with it. • If it looks/seems *too good to be true*, it probably is. [=there is probably some cost or bad part you do not know about]

very good formal — used as a response to say you will do something that you have been told or asked to do • "Show the ambassador in." "Very good, sir."

what's good for the goose is good for the gander see ¹GOOSE

with (a) good grace see ¹GRACE

²good noun, pl goods

1 a [noncount] : morally good forces or influences • the battle of *good* versus evil • Teachers can be a strong force for *good*. • the difference between *good* and bad **b** [count] : something that is right or good • They had to sacrifice lesser *goods* for greater ones. • What is life's highest/greatest *good*?

2 the good **a** [singular] : the pleasant things that happen to people • You have to *take the good with the bad*. [=you have to accept both the good things and the bad things that happen to you] **b** [singular] : things that are morally proper or correct • Parents must teach their children the difference between *the good* and the bad. **c** [plural] : morally good people • She believes that *the good* go to heaven when they die and the bad go to hell. • Only *the good* die young.

3 [noncount] : the part of someone that is kind, honest, generous, helpful, etc. • They cherished the *good* [=goodness] in him, overlooking the bad. • She believes there is some *good* in everyone.

4 [noncount] **a** : something that helps someone or something to be better, stronger, etc. • She did it *for the good of* the community. [=to help the community] • citizens working together *for the common/public good* [=to help or benefit everyone] • I know you don't want to do this, but it's *for your own good*. [=it will make you stronger, better, etc.] • They talk too much *for their own good*. [=they hurt themselves by talking too much] **b** : a useful or favorable result • What *good* can possibly come of that? • No *good* came of our efforts. = Our efforts *came to no good*. [=our efforts did not produce a good or useful result] — see also NO GOOD (below)

5 goods [plural] **a** : products that are made or grown in order to be sold : things for sale • The store sells a variety of *goods*. • baked/canned *goods* • leather/paper *goods* • perishable *goods* such as milk, eggs, and produce • He's accused of selling stolen *goods*. • *goods* and services • a store that sells *sporting goods* [=products that are used for playing sports] — see also DAMAGED GOODS, DRY GOODS, DURABLE GOODS, WHITE GOODS **b** : things that are owned by a person • He sold all of his *worldly goods*. [=all of his possessions]

c Brit : products carried by trains, trucks, etc. : FREIGHT — used before another noun • a *goods* lorry — see also GOODS TRAIN

be any good : to be useful or helpful • Would an apology *be any good*? [=any use]

deliver the goods or chiefly Brit come up with the goods informal : to produce the desired or promised results : to do what is wanted or expected • We knew we could count on him to *deliver the goods*. [=get the job done]

do good **1** : to do kind or helpful things : to do things that help other people • She tried to make the community better by *doing good*. • She has *done* a lot of *good* in the community. — see also DO-GOODER **2 a** : to be useful or helpful — used with *any*, *much*, *some*, etc. • I tried to convince him to change his mind, but it didn't *do any good*. [=I was unable to convince him] • He's been exercising more and it seems to be *doing some good*. • You can try, but it probably won't *do much good*. • It might *do a little good*. **b** : to be useful to or helpful for someone or something • You should exercise more. It might *do you* (some) *good*. • Weeding regularly will *do your garden good*. [=will improve your garden] • The visit with her grandchildren *did her a world/lot of good*. = (Brit) The visit with her grandchildren *did her a power of good*. [=it was very good for her; it made her feel much better and happier] ♦ If you do not think that something is helpful, useful, or worth doing, you can ask *What good does it do?*, *What good is it?*, *What's the good of it?*, etc. • *What good does it to do* to bring an umbrella along [=why bring an umbrella along] if you are only going to leave it in the car? • *What good is a college education* when you can't get a job after you graduate? • *What's the good of working hard* if your boss doesn't give you any credit for it? • I could try talking to him, but *what good would that do/be*? He has already made up his mind.

for good also for good and all : forever • "When is she coming back?" "She's not coming back. She's gone *for good*."

have/get the goods on informal ♦ To *have/get the goods on* someone is to have/get evidence showing that someone has done something wrong. • We can't arrest her until we *get the goods on her*.

in good with US, informal : in a favored position with (someone) • She's *in good with* the boss. [=the boss likes her]

it's an ill wind that blows no good see ¹ILL

no good or not any good : not effective or useful • I tried to convince him to change his mind, but it was *no good*, he wouldn't listen to me. • It's *no good* [=no use] talking to him. = It *isn't any good* talking to him. — see also BE ANY GOOD (above)

not much good : not very effective or useful • I tried to convince him to change his mind, but it *wasn't much good*.

to the good **1** — used to say that a particular result or effect is good or would be good; usually used after *all* • If the new policy requires the government to keep more accurate records, that's *all to the good*. [=that's a good thing; that's desirable] **2** — used to indicate an amount of gain or profit • In the end, we were \$100 *to the good*. [=we gained \$100]

up to no good informal : doing bad things or planning to do bad things • If you ask me, that woman's *up to no good*.

³**good** *adv, informal*

1 *chiefly US* : ¹WELL 1 • Things have been going *good* lately. • The team is doing *good* this year. • “How did you hit the ball today?” “*Good*.” ♦ The use of *good* to mean “well” is considered wrong by many people. It occurs mainly in very informal speech.

2 *chiefly US* : completely and thoroughly • The other team whipped us *good*. • That was a funny joke you played on him. You really *got him good*. [=he was completely fooled by the joke] • “They sure soaked you with that bucket of water.” “Yeah, they really *got me good*.” [=I got completely soaked with water] • (*Brit*) Clean it up *good and proper*.

3 — used for emphasis before words like *long* and *many* • I haven't seen her for *a good long* time. [=a very long time] • There were *a good many* people [=a lot of people] at the meeting. • (*chiefly Brit*) Not all our students go on to university, but *a good few* [=quite a few] of them do.

good afternoon *interj, somewhat formal* — used to say hello to someone in the afternoon • *Good afternoon!* Thanks for calling.

Good Book *noun*

the Good Book : BIBLE 1a • As *the Good Book* says . . .

¹**good-bye** *also good-by* /gud'baɪ/ *interj* — used to express good wishes when someone is leaving • *Goodbye!* See you later!

²**goodbye** *also goodby* *noun, pl -bys* [count]

1 : a remark or gesture made when someone is leaving • He said his *goodbys* and left. • They said *goodbye* and went their separate ways. • They waved *goodbye* from the window. • She kissed him *goodbye*. — sometimes used figuratively • She said *goodbye* to her old job. [=she left her old job]

2 : a time or occasion when someone leaves • a tearful *goodbye* • I can't stand long *goodbys*.

kiss (something) goodbye see ¹KISS

good day *interj, somewhat formal + old-fashioned* — used to say hello or goodbye to someone in the daytime • *Welcome and good day.*

good evening *interj, somewhat formal* — used to say hello to someone in the evening • *Good evening, everyone.*

good faith *noun* [noncount] : honesty in dealing with other people • You have no right to question my *good faith*. — often used before another noun • a *good-faith* effort — compare BAD FAITH

in good faith : in an honest and proper way • He bargained *in good faith*. • Both parties acted *in good faith*.

good-for-nothing /'gudfə,nʌθɪŋ/ *adj* [more ~; most ~] *informal* : of no use or value • I like Jane, but I can't stand that lazy *good-for-nothing* brother of hers.

— **good-for-nothing** *noun, pl -things* [count] • Her brother is a lazy *good-for-nothing*.

Good Friday *noun, pl ~ -days* [count, noncount] : the Friday before Easter that is observed by Christians as the anniversary of the death of Jesus Christ

good-hearted /'gud'hɑ:təd/ *adj* [more ~; most ~] : kind and generous • He's a *good-hearted* [=kindhearted] fellow. • She offered a *good-hearted* [=well-meaning] apology.

good-hu-mored (US) or *Brit* **good-hu-moured** /'gud'hju:məd/ *adj* [more ~; most ~] : pleasant and cheerful • She was still *good-humored* at the end of a tiring day. • He offered his comments in a *good-humored* manner.

— **good-hu-mored-ly** (US) or *Brit* **good-hu-moured-ly** *adv*

goodie *variant spelling of GOODY*

good-ish /'gudiʃ/ *adj, chiefly Brit* : somewhat good • She did a *goodish* [=fair] amount of work. • a *goodish* wine

good life *noun*

the good life 1 US : the kind of life that people with a lot of money are able to have • She grew up poor, but now she's living *the good life*. • His idea of *the good life* includes owning several luxury cars. 2 : a happy and enjoyable life • She gave up a good job in the city to move to the country in search of *the good life*.

good-look-er /'gud'lʊkə/ *noun, pl -ers* [count] *informal* : an attractive person • Your girlfriend's a real *good-looker*! [=she is very good-looking]

good-look-ing /'gud'lʊkɪŋ/ *adj* [more ~; most ~] : having a pleasing or attractive appearance : pretty, handsome, or beautiful • a very *good-looking* woman/man

good-ly /'gudli/ *adj, always used before a noun* **good-li-er; -est** *somewhat old-fashioned* : large in size or amount • We expect a *goodly* [=good] number of people to show up. • He

lives a *goodly* [=considerable] distance from his family. • a *goodly* sum

good morning *interj* — used to say hello to someone in the morning • *Good morning.* How are you today?

good name *noun, pl ~ names* [count] : a person's good reputation • I don't want the scandal to ruin my *good name*.

good-na-tured /'gud'neɪtəd/ *adj* [more ~; most ~] : friendly, pleasant, or cheerful • Her *good-natured* personality put us all at ease. • a *good-natured* competition — opposite ILL-NATURED

— **good-na-tured-ly** *adv*

good-ness /'gudnəs/ *noun* [noncount]

1 : the quality or state of being good: such as a : the quality or state of being kind, honest, generous, helpful, etc. • I believe there is (some) *goodness* in everyone. • Even if you don't agree, at least *have the goodness* to be polite! • She agreed to help him *out of the goodness of her heart*. [=because she is a kind and generous person] b : the quality or state of being useful or effective • If you cook the vegetables too long, they'll lose all their (natural) *goodness*.

2 — used to express mild surprise or shock • *Goodness*, it's hot out today! • *Goodness* (only) knows how it happened. • “Did you stop them?” “*Goodness* (gracious), no!” • Oh, *my goodness*! ♦ People use *I swear to goodness*, *I hope to goodness*, or *I wish to goodness* to add force to a statement. • *I wish to goodness* that you would hurry up!

for goodness' sake — used to express surprise or annoyance • Will you hurry up, *for goodness' sake*?

goodness knows see ¹KNOW

good night *interj* — used to express good wishes in the evening especially when someone is leaving or going to sleep • *Good night.* I'll see you in the morning.

good old boy or **good ol' boy** or **good ole boy** /'gudol,boɪ/ *noun, pl ~ boys* [count] US, *informal* : a white man from the southern U.S. who has interests, beliefs, etc., that are commonly associated with white southern men

Good Sa-mar-i-tan /-sə'merətən/ *noun, pl ~ -tans* [count] : a person who helps other people and especially strangers when they have trouble • We had a flat tire on the highway but fortunately a *Good Samaritan* stopped to help us change it.

good-sized /'gud'saɪzd/ *adj* : somewhat large • They live in a *good-sized* house. • a *good-sized* crowd

goods train *noun, pl ~ trains* [count] *Brit* : FREIGHT TRAIN

good-tem-pered /'gud'tempəd/ *adj* [more ~; most ~] : usually calm and cheerful : not easily angered or upset • a *good-tempered* dog • The baby is very *good-tempered*. [=the baby has a very good temper]

good-will /'gud'wɪl/ *noun* [noncount]

1 or *good will* : a kind, helpful, or friendly feeling or attitude • She has/feels *goodwill* toward all her coworkers. • They allowed him to keep the extra money as a gesture of *goodwill*. • trying to promote *goodwill* • people of *goodwill* — often used before another noun • a *goodwill* gesture • a *goodwill* ambassador on a *goodwill* tour/mission

2 *business* : the amount of value that a company's good reputation adds to its overall value • *goodwill* and other assets • loss of *goodwill*

goody or **good-ie** /'gudi/ *noun, pl good-ies* [count] *informal*

1 : something that tastes good • She gave each of the children a *goody* at snack time. — usually plural • The store sells cakes and pies and all kinds of other *goodies*.

2 : something that people want or like : something desirable • The company offers health insurance, paid vacation, and other *goodies* like stock options. • This song is an oldie but a *goodie*. • Each guest was given a *goody bag*. [=a bag containing a small gift]

3 *somewhat old-fashioned* — used in speech especially by children or when talking to children to show excitement and pleasure • “Are we going to the circus? *Goody!*”

4 *Brit* : a good person in a book, movie, etc. • He plays one of the *goodies* [=good guys] in his latest film and defeats all the baddies.

goody-goody /'gudi'gudi/ *noun, pl -goodies* [count] *informal + disapproving* : a person (such as a child) whose good behavior and politeness are annoying because they seem to be excessive or not sincere • The other kids don't like her because she's a *goody-goody*. [=goody two-shoes] — often used before another noun • He can't stand *goody-goody* types.

goody two-shoes or **Goody Two-shoes** /'gudi'tu:-

ju:z/ *noun*, *pl* ~ **two-shoes** or ~ **Two-shoes** [count] *informal* + *disapproving* : GOODY-GOODY • You didn't invite her to the party, did you? She's such a *goody two-shoes*.

goo·ey /'gu:wi/ *adj* **goo-ier**; **-est** *informal* : wet and sticky • We had *gooey* hot fudge sundaes. • a *gooey* mess — often used figuratively • a *gooey* romantic comedy [=a very sentimental romantic comedy]

¹**goof** /'gu:f/ *verb* **goofs**; **goofed**; **goof-ing** *chiefly US, informal* : to make a careless or stupid mistake : to make a goof [no obj] It was clear that someone had *goofed*. — often + *up* • I really *goofed up* this time. [+ *obj*] — usually + *up* • They both *goofed up* their lines.

goof around [phrasal verb] *chiefly US, informal* : to spend time doing silly or playful things • The kids are *goofing around*, watching TV and hanging out.

goof off [phrasal verb] *chiefly US, informal* : to spend time doing things that are not useful or serious • He spent the day *goofing off* instead of working. — see also GOOF-OFF

goof on [phrasal verb] **goof on** (someone or something) *US slang* : to make jokes about (someone or something) in a way that is either playful or unkind • They're just *goofing on* [=kidding with, teasing] you.

²**goof** *noun*, *pl* **goofs** [count] *chiefly US, informal*

1 : a silly or stupid person • Don't be such a *goof*.

2 : a careless or stupid mistake • I'll admit it's my *goof*. • I made a major *goof*.

goof-ball /'gu:f,bɔ:l/ *noun*, *pl* **-balls** [count] *US, informal* : a silly or stupid person : GOOF

goof-off /'gu:f,ɔ:f/ *noun*, *pl* **-offs** [count] *chiefly US, informal* : a person who avoids work or responsibility : someone who goofs off a lot • *goof-offs* who never do any work

goofy /'gu:fi/ *adj* **goof-i-er**; **-est** [also more ~; most ~] *informal* : crazy or silly • She was making *goofy* faces at us in class. • a *goofy* grin/smile • He's a *goofy* guy. • an actress known for her *goofy* charm

— **goof-i-ly** /'gu:fəli/ *adv* • He smiled *goofily*. — **goof-i-ness** /'gu:finəs/ *noun* [noncount] • a moment of *goofiness* in an otherwise serious interview

goo-gly-eyed /'gu:gli,aɪd/ *adj* : having eyes that stick out • a *googly-eyed* monster • a *googly-eyed* frog : having eyes that are very open or staring because of amazement, admiration, etc. • *googly-eyed* lovers • *googly-eyed* fans

goon /'gu:n/ *noun*, *pl* **goons** [count] *informal*

1 *chiefly US* : a person who is hired to threaten, beat up, or kill someone : THUG • He was beat up by a couple of *goons*.

2 *chiefly Brit* : a stupid person

goop /'gu:p/ *noun* [noncount] *informal* : a sticky or greasy substance • I stepped in some *goop*.

¹**goose** /'gu:s/ *noun*, *pl* **geese** /'gi:s/

1 [count] : any one of many different kinds of birds that swim, that are larger than ducks, and that have a long neck and webbed feet • a flock/gaggle of *geese*

2 [count] : a female goose — compare GANDER

3 [noncount] : the meat of a goose used as food • roast *goose*

4 [count] *informal* + *old-fashioned* : a foolish or silly person — usually singular • You silly *goose*.

cook someone's goose see ²COOK

the golden goose or the goose that lays the golden egg : something that is a very good source of money or business • The city's leaders don't want to do anything that could kill the *golden goose* of tourism.

what's good for the goose is good for the gander (US) or *chiefly Brit what's sauce for the goose is sauce for the gander* — used to say that one person or situation should be treated the same way that another person or situation is treated • If he can go out with his friends at night, then she should be able to, too. *What's good for the goose is good for the gander*.

wouldn't say boo to a goose see ¹BOO

— see also WILD GOOSE CHASE

²**goose** *verb* **goos-es**; **goosed**; **goos-ing** [+ *obj*] *US, informal*

1 : to touch or pinch (someone) on the buttocks

2 : to increase the activity or amount of (something) • They hope the new product will help to *goose* (up) profits.

goose-ber-ry /'gu:s,beri, Brit 'gu:zbri/ *noun*, *pl* **-ries** [count]

1 : a small green berry that has a sour taste — see color picture on page C5

2 *Brit, informal* : an extra person who is present when two other people (such as lovers) want to be alone together — used especially in the phrase *play gooseberry* • He was left to

play gooseberry while the other two talked and laughed all evening.

goose bumps *noun* [plural] *chiefly US, informal* : small bumps on your skin that are caused by cold, fear, or a sudden feeling of excitement • I get *goose bumps* every time I think about it. • It gives me *goose bumps*. — called also *goose flesh*, (*chiefly Brit*) *goose pimples*

goose egg *noun*, *pl* ~ **eggs** [count] *US, informal* : a score of zero • The two teams matched *goose eggs* [=they both scored no runs] for five innings. • They put another *goose egg* up on the scoreboard.

goose-neck /'gu:s,nek/ *noun*, *pl* **-necks** [count] : a flexible metal pipe

goose step *noun* [singular] : a way of marching by kicking your legs forward very high and not bending your knees

— **goose-step** /'gu:s,step/ *verb* **-steps**; **-stepped**; **-stepping** [no obj] • The soldiers *goose-stepped* past the general in the parade.

GOP /'dʒi:,ou'pi:/ *noun*

the GOP : the Republican Party of the U.S. • longtime members of *the GOP* — often used as *GOP* before another noun • a *GOP* governor • attending the *GOP* convention ♦ *GOP* is an abbreviation of "Grand Old Party."

go-pher /'goufə/ *noun*, *pl* **-phers** [count] : an American animal that is similar to a large rat and that lives in the ground

gopher ball *noun*, *pl* ~ **balls** [count] *baseball, informal* : a pitch that a batter hits for a home run • a pitcher who has thrown eight *gopher balls* so far this year

Gor-di-an knot /'goədiən-/ *noun*, *pl* ~ **knots** [count] : a complicated and difficult problem • a *Gordian knot* of legal troubles

cut the Gordian knot : to solve a difficult problem in a very direct way by doing something forceful or extreme

¹**gore** /'goə/ *noun* [noncount]

1 : thick blood from a wound

2 : violent images or scenes that show a lot of blood • The movie contains excessive violence, *gore*, and profanity. • blood and *gore*

²**gore** *verb* **gores**; **gored**; **gor-ing** [+ *obj*] *of an animal* : to wound (a person or another animal) with a horn or tusk • The bull *gored* him. — usually (be) *gored* • He was *gored* by a bull.

¹**gorge** /'goədʒ/ *noun*, *pl* **gorg-es** [count]

1 : a deep, narrow area between hills or mountains

2 ♦ If *your gorge rises* you feel sick, disgusted, or angry. • My *gorge rises* [=I feel very angry] when I think of children living in such bad conditions. • a disgusting odor that *made my gorge rise* [=made me feel like vomiting]

²**gorge** *verb* **gorg-es**; **gorged**; **gorg-ing**

1 : to eat large amounts of food — usually + *on* [no obj] We *gorged on* chips and cookies. [+ *obj*] We *gorged ourselves on* chips and cookies.

2 [+ *obj*] : to fill (something) completely — usually used as (be) *gorged* • tissue *gorged with* blood

gor-geous /'goədʒəs/ *adj* [more ~; most ~]

1 : very beautiful or attractive • Your baby is absolutely *gorgeous*! • a *gorgeous* young man/woman • a *gorgeous* red dress

2 : very enjoyable or pleasant • *gorgeous* summer afternoons — **gor-geous-ly** *adv* • The book is *gorgeously* illustrated.

— **gor-geous-ness** *noun* [noncount]

Gor-gon /'goəgən/ *noun*, *pl* **-gons** [count] : any one of the three sisters in Greek mythology who had snakes for hair and who could turn anyone who looked at them into stone • *Medusa the Gorgon*

Gor-gon-zo-la /'goəgən'zoulə/ *noun* [noncount] : an Italian cheese that contains blue mold and that has a strong flavor

go-ril-la /gə'rilə/ *noun*, *pl* **-las** [count]

1 : a type of very large ape that has black fur and that comes from Africa — see picture at APE

2 *informal* : a large, strong, and usually ugly or frightening man • She hired some *gorilla* as her bodyguard.

800-pound gorilla *US, informal* : someone or something that is very powerful and difficult to control or ignore • Their company is the *800-pound gorilla* of the computer industry.

gorm-less /'goəmləs/ *adj* [more ~; most ~] *Brit, informal* : very stupid or foolish • a *gormless* fool

go-round /'gou,raund/ *noun*, *pl* **-rounds** [count] *chiefly US, informal* : one of a series of repeated actions or events • I missed their show (on) the first *go-round*. [=the first time

they came here] — called also *go-around*

gory /'gori/ *adj* **gor-i-er; -est** : having or showing a lot of violence and blood • a *gory* crime scene • *gory* horror movies
gory detail(s) *informal* ✧ To describe something *in gory detail* or to give (all) the *gory details* about something is to tell all the small details about something that is unpleasant or interesting in a shocking way. • The murder was described *in gory detail*. • Please, spare us the *gory details*. [=do not tell us all the unpleasant facts]

gosh /'ga:ʃ/ *interj, informal* — used to express surprise or mild anger • “Gosh, is she OK?” • “Oh *gosh*, that’s beautiful!” • *Gosh* darn it!

gos·ling /'ga:zliŋ/ *noun, pl -lings* [count] : a young goose

go-slow /,gou'slou/ *noun, pl -slows* [count] *Brit* : an action in which workers protest against an employer by working slowly

gos·pel /'ga:spəl/ *noun, pl -pels*

1 or *Gospel* [singular] : the teachings of the Christian religion — usually used with *the* • *preaching/spreading the Gospel* [=telling people about Christianity]

2 *Gospel* [count] : any one of the first four books of the Christian Bible that tell of the life of Jesus Christ • a reading from the *Gospel* of St. John

3 [singular] : an idea or set of ideas that someone believes and often tries to make other people believe • She’s always spreading/preaching the *gospel* of good health. [=telling people about the importance of good health]

4 [noncount] : something that is believed to be definitely true • These myths are *accepted/taken as gospel* [=believed to be true] by many teenagers. • I didn’t do it, and that’s *the gospel truth*. [=the absolute truth; a completely true statement]

5 [noncount] : a type of Christian music that was created by African-Americans in the southern U.S. • She sings *gospel*. • a *gospel* choir — called also *gospel music*

gos·sa·mer /'ga:səmər/ *noun* [noncount]

1 : a piece of a spider’s web

2 *literary* : a very light or delicate material • a butterfly’s wings of *gossamer* — often used before another noun • *gossamer* wings/petals • *gossamer* fabric

gos·sip /'ga:səp/ *noun, pl -sips*

1 [noncount] **a** : information about the behavior and personal lives of other people • Have you heard the latest (piece of) *gossip* about their divorce? • He had been *spreading gossip* about his coworkers. **b** : information about the lives of famous people • the latest news and *gossip* from the entertainment industry • She writes a *gossip* column in the paper. • a *gossip* columnist

2 [count] : a person who often talks about the private details of other people’s lives • He’s a terrible *gossip*.

3 [count] *chiefly Brit* : a conversation about the personal lives of other people • I like having a good *gossip* now and then.

— **gos·sipy** /'ga:səpi/ *adj* [more ~; most ~] *informal* • a *gos-sipy* magazine/writer

gossip *verb -sips; -siped; -sip-ing* [no obj] : to talk about the personal lives of other people • They spent the afternoon *gossiping* on the phone. • They often *gossip* with each other about their neighbors.

— **gos·sip·er** *noun, pl -ers* [count] • a malicious *gossiper*

gos·sip·mon·ger /'ga:səp,mɑ:ŋgər, 'ga:səp,mɑ:ŋgər/ *noun, pl -gers* [count] *disapproving* : a person who enjoys talking about other people’s private lives : a person who spreads gossip

got *past tense and past participle of GET*

got·cha /'ga:tʃə/ — used in writing to represent the sound of the phrase *got you* when it is spoken quickly • She ran after him, grabbed him by the arm, and said “*Gotcha!*” [=I got you; I caught you] • “We’ll have to leave soon, so be ready.” “*Gotcha.*” [=I have got you; I understand] ✧ The pronunciation represented by *gotcha* occurs only in very informal speech. The written form should be avoided except when you are trying to represent or record such speech.

got·cha *noun, pl -chas* [count] *US, informal* : an unexpected problem or usually unpleasant surprise • The program has a few *gotchas* in store for unsuspecting computer users.

goth /'ga:θ/ *noun, pl goths*

1 [noncount] : a type of rock music with words that express sad, depressing, or frightening ideas

2 [count] : a person who listens to or performs goth music, wears mostly black clothing, uses black and white makeup, and often has dyed black hair

Goth·ic /'ga:θik/ *adj*

1 : of or relating to a style of writing that describes strange

or frightening events that take place in mysterious places • *Gothic* novels

2 : of or relating to a style of architecture that was popular in Europe between the 12th and 16th centuries and that uses pointed arches, thin and tall walls, and large windows • a *Gothic* cathedral

go-to /'gou,tu:/ *adj, always used before a noun, US, informal* : always helpful : producing desired results or information when needed • She’s the team’s *go-to* player [=she is the player that the team relies on] when they need to score late in the game. • He’s the *go-to* guy in the office for tax information.

got·ta /'gɑ:tə/ — used in writing to represent the sound of the phrase *got to* when it is spoken quickly • “We’ve *gotta* go.” [=we have got to go] • “I *gotta* [=have got to] get a new pair of shoes.” ✧ The pronunciation represented by *gotta* is common in informal speech. The written form should be avoided except when you are trying to represent or record such speech.

gotten *past participle of GET*

Gou·da /'gu:də/ *noun* [noncount] : a Dutch cheese that has a mild taste

¹gouge /'gaudʒ/ *verb* **goug-es; gouged; goug-ing** [+ obj]

1 **a** : to cut a deep hole in (something) • The lamp fell and *gouged* the table. **b** : to make (a deep hole) in something • A bomb had *gouged* a large crater in the street.

2 *US, informal* : to make (someone) pay too much money for something • They feel that they are being *gouged* by the oil companies. • The company has been *gouging* [=overcharging] its customers for years. • They have been accused of *price gouging*. [=making their customers pay too much money]

gouge out [*phrasal verb*] **gouge out (something) or gouge (something) out** 1 : to remove (something) by digging or cutting • The impact of the accident *gouged* a big piece out of the wall. • He threatened to *gouge* my eyes out. 2 : to make (a hole or path) by digging or cutting • The river *gouged out* a wide path between the mountains.

— **goug·er** *noun, pl -ers* [count] *chiefly US* • a price *gouger*

²gouge *noun, pl gouges* [count]

1 : a metal tool with a curved, sharp end that is used to cut and shape wood

2 : a deep cut or hole • The accident left a big *gouge* in the side of the car.

gou·lash /'gu:,lə:ʃ, Brit 'gu:,ləʃ/ *noun*

1 [noncount] : a dish of meat, vegetables, and paprika that is slowly cooked in liquid • *Hungarian goulash*

2 [singular] : a mixture of different things • a *goulash* of facts and figures

gourd /'goəd, 'guəd/ *noun, pl gourds* [count] : any one of several types of fruits that have a hard shell and that are used for decoration and not for eating

out of your gourd *US, informal* : CRAZY • That guy is completely *out of his gourd*. [= (more commonly) *out of his mind*] — sometimes used to give emphasis • I was bored *out of my gourd*. [=I was very bored]

— **gourd-like** /'goəd,ləɪk, 'guəd,ləɪk/ *adj* [more ~; most ~] • a *gourdlike* fruit

gour·mand /'guə,mɑ:nd/ *noun, pl -mands* [count] : a person who loves to eat and drink : a person who eats and drinks too much

gourmet /'guə,meɪ, guə'meɪ/ *noun, pl -mets* [count] : a person who enjoys and knows a lot about good food and wine

— **gour·met** *adj, always used before a noun* • a *gourmet* meal [=a meal of very high quality; a meal that appeals to gourmets] • *gourmet* foods • a *gourmet* cook/chef [=an excellent cook/chef who makes gourmet meals]

gout /'gaut/ *noun* [noncount] : a disease that causes painful swelling of the joints especially in the toes

— **gouty** /'gauti/ *adj* **gout-i-er; -est** • *gouty* toes

gov *abbr* 1 *gov.* government 2 *Gov.* governor • *Gov.* Jerry Brown 3 government institution — used in Internet addresses • <http://www.whitehouse.gov>

gov·ern /'gavən/ *verb -erns; -erned; -ern-ing*

1 : to officially control and lead (a group of people) : to make decisions about laws, taxes, social programs, etc., for (a country, state, etc.) [+ obj] Members of the party have *governed* [=ruled] the country for the last 20 years. • The tribe is *governed* by a 10-member council. • They want to form their own country and *govern* themselves. [no obj] The scandal limited her ability to *govern* effectively. • How would he *govern* if he were elected president?

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2 [+ *obj*] : to control the way that (something) is done • She suggested changing the state's laws *governing* the sale of alcohol. • The council *governs* fishing in the region.

3 [+ *obj*] : to control or guide the actions of (someone or something) • We will be studying the forces that *govern* the Earth's climate. • Tradition *governs* all aspects of their lives. • He allows himself to be *governed* by his emotions.

— **gov·ern·able** /'gʌvənəbəl/ *adj* [more ~; most ~] • a *gov·ernable* city

gov·er·nance /'gʌvənəns/ *noun* [noncount] *formal* : the way that a city, company, etc., is controlled by the people who run it • They have very different approaches to the *gov·er·nance* of the city. • corporate *gov·er·nance*

gov·ern·ess /'gʌvənəs/ *noun*, *pl* -*ess·es* [count] : a woman who is paid to care for and teach a child in the child's house

governing *adj*, *always used before a noun*

1 : controlling and making decisions for a country, organization, etc. • She is currently the leader of the *governing* party. • a five-member *governing* board/council/body

2 : controlling or guiding the actions of someone or something • Tradition is the *governing* factor in the lives of these people. • Their *governing* principle is to provide their customers with the best possible products. — see also SELF-GOVERNING

gov·ern·ment /'gʌvəmənt/ *noun*, *pl* -*ments*

1 [count] : the group of people who control and make decisions for a country, state, etc. • The *gov·ern·ment* has been slow to react to the crisis. • She works for the federal *gov·ern·ment*. • the national/central *gov·ern·ment* • We need to improve relations with foreign *gov·ern·ments*. • the British *gov·ern·ment* • a corrupt/powerful/weak *gov·ern·ment* — often used before another noun • They have promised to reduce *gov·ern·ment* spending. • a *gov·ern·ment* agency/official/program • *gov·ern·ment* policies and regulations ♦ In British English, *gov·ern·ment* is used with both singular and plural verbs. • The *gov·ern·ment* is/are working on the problem. — see also LOCAL GOVERNMENT, STUDENT GOVERNMENT

2 [noncount] **a** : a particular system used for controlling a country, state, etc. • He is a firm believer in democratic/representative *gov·ern·ment*. **b** : the process or manner of controlling a country, state, etc. • We learned about different methods/systems of *gov·ern·ment*. • The country has been damaged by many years of weak/corrupt *gov·ern·ment*. — see also BIG GOVERNMENT

— **gov·ern·men·tal** /'gʌvən'mentl/ *adj* • *gov·ern·men·tal* agencies • The law provides *gov·ern·men·tal* protection for investors. — **gov·ern·men·tal·ly** /'gʌvən'mentli/ *adv* • *gov·ern·men·tal·ly* funded programs

gov·er·nor /'gʌvənə/ *noun*, *pl* -*nors* [count]

1 *or* **Governor** : a person who is the leader of the government of a state, province, etc. • the *gov·er·nor* of the state of Florida • *Governor* Jones — abbr. *Gov.*; see also LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

2 **a** : a person who is part of a group of people who control a large organization, school, etc. • He was the chairman of the board of *gov·er·nors* at the school. **b** *chiefly Brit* : a person who is in charge of a school, prison, or other large organization or institution • the *gov·er·nor* of the Bank of England • the school *gov·er·nor* • a prison *gov·er·nor* [= (US) warden]

3 *Brit, informal* : a man who has authority over other people : **BOSS** • Wait here while I get the *gov·er·nor*.

gov·er·nor·ship /'gʌvənəʃɪp/ *noun*, *pl* -*ships*

1 [noncount] : the job of a governor • a candidate for the *gov·er·nor·ship*

2 [count] : the period when a person is a governor • The state has done well during her *gov·er·nor·ship*.

govt. (*chiefly US*) *or* **Brit govt** *abbr* government

gown /'gaʊn/ *noun*, *pl* *gowns* [count]

1 : a long, formal dress that a woman wears especially during a special event • The bride wore a lovely lace wedding *gown*. • a *redevening gown* [= a gown that is worn to events in the evening] • a beautiful *ball gown* [= a gown that is worn to large formal parties for dancing]

2 : a loose piece of clothing that covers most of the body • a *hospital gown* [= a robe worn by a patient in a hospital] — see also DRESSING GOWN, NIGHTGOWN

3 : a loose piece of clothing that is worn over other clothes during an official event by a judge, a priest, a student, etc.

G.P. (*chiefly US*) *or* **Brit GP** *abbr* general practitioner

GPA *abbr*, *US* grade point average

GPS /'dʒiːpiːs/ *noun* [noncount] : a radio system that uses

signals from satellites to tell you where you are and to give you directions to other places • The car comes with *GPS*. ♦ *GPS* is an abbreviation of "Global Positioning System."

grab /'græb/ *verb* *grabs*; *grabbed*; *grab·bing*

1 : to quickly take and hold (someone or something) with your hand or arms [+ *obj*] She *grabbed* his wrist. = She *grabbed* him by the wrist. • I have to go back in the house and *grab* my car keys. • He tried to *grab* the ball out of her hands. = He tried to *grab* it (away) from her. • He *grabbed* hold of a tree branch [= he grabbed a tree branch] and pulled himself out of the water. [no *obj*] The little boy *grabbed onto* his mother's leg and wouldn't let go.

2 [+ *obj*] : to take or get (something) in a quick and informal way • *Grab* me a beer, please. = *Grab* a beer for me, please. • I'll *grab* a taxi and meet you there. • Let's *grab* a bite to eat before the movie starts. • *Grab a seat*. [= sit down] I'll be with you in a minute.

3 [+ *obj*] *informal a* : to get the attention or interest of (someone or something) • The store had a lot of nice stuff, but nothing really *grabbed* me. • The play *grabs* the audience from the opening scene. • *How does that grab you?* [= what do you think of that idea?] **b** : to get or be given (something, such as attention) • One player in particular has been *grabbing* a lot of attention lately. • A new cancer treatment *grabbed (the) headlines* [= it was given much attention in the news] this week.

4 [+ *obj*] : to take (something) usually in an unfair way • They tried to *grab* the largest portion of the money for themselves. • He *grabbed* the company (away) from its founders.

grab at/for [*phrasal verb*] **grab at/for** (*someone or something*) : to quickly stretch out your hand and try to touch or hold (something or someone) • People were *grabbing at* her as she walked through the crowd. • He *grabbed for* the ball and missed. — often used figuratively • We *grabbed at* the chance to go. • political parties *grabbing for* power

— **grab·ber** *noun*, *pl* -*bers* [count] • That outfit is a real attention *grabber*. • a headline *grabber*

grab *noun*, *pl* *grabs* [count]

1 : a quick attempt to take or get something — usually singular; often + *for* • He is a member of a group that has broken away from the party's leaders in a *grab for* power. • a *grab for* attention • She *made a grab for* the last cookie. [= she tried to grab the last cookie]

2 : the act of taking something in a forceful or illegal way • an illegal land *grab*

up for grabs : available for anyone to try to get • Several positions on the team are still *up for grabs*. • With the election just a few weeks away, a lot of voters are still *up for grabs*.

grab bag *noun*, *pl* ~ *bags* [count] *US*

1 : a bag that holds many small gifts and that you reach into in order to pull one out without knowing what it is — compare LUCKY DIP

2 *informal* : a group or mixture of different things • Congress has proposed a *grab bag* of tax cuts.

grab·by /'græbi/ *adj* **grab·bi·er**; -*est* *informal* : tending to take things in a quick and selfish way : GREEDY • a *grabby* government/corporation • You need to learn to share and not be so *grabby*.

grace /'greɪs/ *noun*, *pl* *grac·es*

1 [noncount] : a way of moving that is smooth and attractive and that is not stiff or awkward • She walked across the stage with effortless *grace*.

2 **a** [noncount] : a controlled, polite, and pleasant way of behaving • She handles her problems with *grace* and dignity. • He has shown remarkable *grace* during this crisis. ♦ People say you *have the (good) grace* to do something when they approve of what you do and consider it to be polite and proper. • She *has the grace* [= she is polite/nice enough] to listen to everyone's complaints. • At least he *had the good grace* to admit that he was wrong. **b** *graces* [*plural*] : skills that are needed for behaving in a polite way in social situations • She is quite lovable despite her lack of *social graces*.

3 [noncount] **a** : help or kindness that God gives or shows to people • Let us give thanks for God's *grace*. • By the *grace* of God, no one was seriously hurt. ♦ People use the phrase (*there*) *but for the grace of God (go I)* to say that they could be in the same bad situation as someone else. • I saw a homeless person on the street and thought "*there but for the grace of God go I*." [= I am lucky not to be homeless also] **b** : a state of being pleasing to God • She tried to live her life in God's *grace*. • He died in a *state of grace*. [= he died after he asked God to forgive his sins]

4 [*noncount*] : a short prayer that is said before a meal • They asked her to say *grace* at dinner.

5 *Grace* [*noncount*] — used as a title for a duke, a duchess, or an archbishop; used with *his*, *her*, or *your* • *His Grace the Duke* • *Yes, Your Grace*.

airs and graces see ¹AIR

fall from grace ✧ If you *fall from grace* or experience a *fall from grace*, you no longer enjoy the success or good reputation that you once had, usually because you have done something wrong. • The governor *fell from grace* after being accused of tax fraud. • The book tells of his *fall from grace*.

in someone's good graces ✧ If you are *in someone's good graces*, that person likes you and has a good opinion of you. • He works late to stay *in his boss's good graces*.

with bad/ill grace : in a way that shows that you are not happy about something : in an unpleasant way • They agreed to the compromise *with bad grace*.

with good grace : in a polite and pleasant way • She accepted his advice *with good grace*. [=graciously] • They lost the game *with good grace*.

— see also COUP DE GRÂCE, SAVING GRACE

²grace verb *graces*; *graced*; *grac-ing* [+ *obj*] *formal* : to decorate or add beauty to (something) • Several marble statues *grace* the courtyard. • Her face has *graced* [=appeared on] the cover of many magazines.

grace (a person, group, etc.) with your presence : to come to a place to be with (a person, group, etc.) — usually used humorously • He finally decided to *grace us with his presence* [=he finally showed up] 10 minutes after dinner started. • Will you be *gracing the meeting with your presence*? [=will you be coming to the meeting?]

grace-ful /'greɪsfəl/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]

1 : moving in a smooth and attractive way • He has become a very *graceful* dancer. • the *graceful* movements of a ballerina

2 : having a smooth and pleasing shape or style • She was a *graceful* young woman with delicate features. • the long, *graceful* neck of a swan • His writing is clear and *graceful*.

3 : polite or kind • There was no *graceful* way to say no to their offer.

— **grace-ful-ly** *adv* • The dancers moved *gracefully* across the stage. • She has aged *gracefully*. [=she has continued to be healthy and young looking as she has gotten older]

— **grace-ful-ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

grace-less /'greɪsləs/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]

1 : awkward or clumsy • *graceless* movements

2 : having a style or shape that is not attractive or pleasing • Her writing can be *graceless* and awkward at times. • a massive, *graceless* building

3 : not kind or polite • She was criticized for her *graceless* [=rude] refusal to help.

— **grace-less-ly** *adv* • a *gracelessly* written book • She *gracelessly* refused to help. — **grace-less-ness** *noun* [*noncount*] • the *gracelessness* of her refusal

grace period *noun*, *pl* ~ *-ods* [*count*] : an amount of extra time that someone is given to pay a bill, finish a project, etc. • The terms of the loan allow for a ten-day *grace period*.

gra-cious /'greɪʃəs/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]

1 : very polite in a way that shows respect • It was very *gracious* [=kind, courteous] of him to offer us a place to stay. • a *gracious* hostess • Thank you for your *gracious* hospitality.

2 : having or showing the attractive things (such as charm, good taste, and comfort) that are associated with having a lot of money • The magazine promotes *gracious* living. • a *gracious* mansion

3 *old-fashioned* — used as an interjection to express mild surprise or for emphasis • *Gracious*, I never expected to see you here! • Good *gracious*, No. • Goodness *gracious*, I hope it works.

— **gra-cious-ly** *adv* • He *graciously* offered us a place to stay. — **gra-cious-ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

grack-le /'grækəl/ *noun*, *pl* *grack-les* [*count*] : a common American bird that has shiny black feathers

grad /'græd/ *noun*, *pl* *grads* [*count*] *US, informal* : GRADUATE • college *grads*

— **grad** *adj*, always used before a noun • He's still in *grad* school. • *grad* students [=students in graduate school]

gra-da-tion /'greɪ'deɪʃən/ *noun*, *pl* *-tions* [*count*] : a small difference between two points or parts that can be seen in something that changes gradually — often + *of* • subtle *gradations* of color/meaning

¹grade /'greɪd/ *noun*, *pl* *grades* [*count*]

1 *US* **a** : a level of study that is completed by a student during one year • Our son is in (the) fourth/twelfth *grade*. **b** : the students in the same year of study at a school • The fifth *grade* will perform their annual play this week.

2 : a number or letter that indicates how a student performed in a class or on a test • (*US*) I got a good *grade* on my math test. = (*Brit*) I got a good *grade* in my maths test. • a *grade* of 90 percent or better • Her *grades* are up/better this semester. • passing/failing *grades*

3 **a** : a particular level of quality • an expensive *grade* of leather • government *grades* for beef **b** : a particular position or rank in an organization • junior *grade* officers— see also HIGH-GRADE, LOW-GRADE

4 *US* : a place where the ground slopes up or down : GRADIENT • a steep six percent *grade*

make the grade : to be good enough or perform well enough to succeed • Many people apply for these positions, but only a few *make the grade*.

²grade verb *grades*; *grad-ed*; *grad-ing* [+ *obj*]

1 chiefly *US* : to give a grade to (a student or a student's work) • Students will be *graded* on their reading ability. • She hasn't finished *grading* the exams.

2 : to give a rating to (something) • How would you *grade* your meal on a scale from one to five?

3 : to separate (things) into groups or classes according to a particular quality • The eggs are *graded* according to size.

4 : to give (a surface) a desired degree of slope • They *graded* the new highway.

grade A *adj* : of the highest quality • a *grade A* performance

grade point average *noun*, *pl* ~ *-ages* [*count*] *US* : a number that indicates a student's average grade — abbr. *GPA*

grad-er /'greɪdər/ *noun*, *pl* *-ers* [*count*]

1 *US* : a student in a particular grade in school • a sixth *grader* [=a student in the sixth grade]

2 : a person who grades students or their work • Her students say that she's a tough/easy *grader*.

3 : a machine used for grading a surface • a road *grader*

grade school *noun*, *pl* ~ *schools* [*count*, *noncount*] *US* : ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

grade-school-er /'greɪd,sku:lər/ *noun*, *pl* *-ers* [*count*] *US* : a child in elementary school

gra-di-ent /'greɪdijənt/ *noun*, *pl* *-ents* [*count*] : a place where the ground slopes up or down : SLOPE • a steep *gradient*

grad-u-al /'grædʒəwəl/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]

1 : moving or changing in small amounts : happening in a slow way over a long period of time • We noticed a *gradual* change in temperature. • The hospital has made *gradual* improvements in health care.

2 : not steep • a *gradual* slope

— **grad-u-al-ly** *adv* • The population *gradually* increased. • The temperature changed *gradually*. • The cat moved *gradually* forward.

¹grad-u-ate /'grædʒəweɪt/ verb *-ates*; *-at-ed*; *-at-ing*

1 *a* [*no obj*] : to earn a degree or diploma from a school, college, or university • He *graduated* from the university last June. • They both *graduated* with honors. • She *graduated* with a degree in history. • He joined the navy after *graduating* from high school. • a *graduating* class of 300 students ✧ In British English, *graduate* refers only to earning a college or university degree. In U.S. English, *graduate* is also used for other schools (such as high schools). **b** [+ *obj*] *US, of a school, college, or university* : to award a degree or diploma to (a student) — usually used as (be) *graduated* • He *was graduated* from the university last June. **c** [+ *obj*] *US, informal* : to earn a degree or diploma from (a school, college, or university) • He joined the navy after *graduating* high school.

2 [*no obj*] : to move from one level to another usually higher level • The word has *graduated* from slang to accepted use. • My nephew has *graduated* from baby food to solid food. • The former child actor has finally *graduated* [=moved on] to more serious roles.

²grad-u-ate /'grædʒəwət/ *noun*, *pl* *-ates* [*count*] : a person who has earned a degree or diploma from a school, college, or university • a college *graduate* • (*US*) a high school *graduate* • an engineering *graduate* [=a person with a degree in engineering] • recent Harvard *graduates*— often + *of* • She's a *graduate* of Harvard. ✧ In British English, only a person who has earned a college or university degree is called a *graduate*.

³graduate *adj*, always used before a noun, *US* : of or relating to a course of studies taken at a college or university after

earning a bachelor's degree or other first degree : POST-GRADUATE • He is taking *graduate* classes at the university. • *graduate* students/school

grad·u·at·ed /'grædʒə,weɪtəd/ *adj*, always used before a noun

1 : marked with lines for measuring • a *graduated* cylinder [=a tall, narrow container used for measuring liquids] • a *graduated* thermometer

2 a : gradually increasing • a series of bowls in *graduated* sizes • *graduated* payments b of a tax : increasing in rate as the thing being taxed (such as income) increases • a *graduated* income tax

grad·u·a·tion /,grædʒə'weɪʃən/ *noun*, pl -tions

1 [noncount] : the act of receiving a diploma or degree from a school, college, or university : the act of graduating • He joined the navy after *graduation*. • We had a party to celebrate her *graduation* from high school.

2 [count] : a ceremony at which degrees or diplomas are given out • They took lots of pictures at their son's *graduation*.

graf·fi·ti /grə'fi:ti/ *noun* [noncount] : pictures or words painted or drawn on a wall, building, etc. • The walls of the old building are covered with *graffiti*. • a piece of *graffiti*

graft /'græft, Brit 'grɑ:ft/ *noun*, pl *grafts* [count]

1 *technical* : a part of a plant that is placed on another plant in such a way that it attaches to and grows with the plant; also : the place where such an attachment is made • You will need to cut off any new shoots that grow below the *graft*.

2 *medical* : a piece of skin, muscle, or bone that is attached to a part of the body to repair a damaged area • a *skin graft*; also : an operation that is done to make such an attachment • perform a *bone graft* on the patient

— compare ³GRAFT, ⁴GRAFT

graft *verb* *grafts*; *graft·ed*; *graft·ing* [+ *obj*]

1 a *technical* : to attach (a part of a plant) to another plant • a type of apple that is grown by being *grafted* onto/to the roots of a different species b *medical* : to attach (a piece of skin, muscle, or bone) to a part of the body • The surgeon was able to *graft* skin over the scar.

2 : to make (something) become a part of (something else) — usually + *onto* • the difficulties of trying to *graft* modern technology *onto* traditional societies

— compare ⁵GRAFT

graft *noun* [noncount] chiefly US : dishonest activity in which people with power (such as political leaders) use their position and influence to get money and advantages • The newspaper published a series of articles exposing *graft* in the city government. — compare ¹GRAFT, ⁴GRAFT

graft *noun* [noncount] Brit, informal : hard work or effort • He succeeded because of years of *hard graft*. — compare ¹GRAFT, ³GRAFT

graft *verb* *grafts*; *graft·ed*; *graft·ing* [no *obj*] Brit, informal : to work hard : LABOR • He spent years *grafting* to get where he is today. — compare ²GRAFT

gra·ham cracker /'græm-/ *noun*, pl ~ -ers [count] US : a slightly sweet type of cracker

grail /'greɪl/ *noun*, pl *grails* [count] : HOLY GRAIL

grain /'greɪn/ *noun*, pl *grains*

1 a [noncount] : the seeds of plants (such as wheat, corn, and rice) that are used for food • bread made from whole wheat *grain* • The machine grinds *grain* into flour.; also [count] : a single seed of wheat, corn, rice, etc. • a *grain* of rice b : a plant that produces grain [count] The farm grows a variety of *grains*. [noncount] fields planted with *grain*

2 [count] a : a small, hard piece of something • a *grain* of sand/salt — see also *take (something) with a grain of salt* at ¹SALT b : a very small amount of something • Anyone with a *grain* of sense knows that she's lying. • There is not a *grain* of truth in what he said.

3 [count] a : the way the lines or fibers in something (such as wood) are arranged — usually singular • She sanded the wood in the direction of the *grain*. b : the way that the surface of something feels when it is touched — usually singular • The wood has a fine/coarse *grain*.

4 [count] : a unit of weight equal to 0.0648 grams

against the grain 1 ♦ To *be/go against the grain* is to be different or to act in a way that is different from what is normal or usual. • It takes courage to *go against the grain* and stand up for what you believe in. 2 ♦ If something *goes against your grain*, it does not seem right or natural to you. • It *goes against his grain* to question the boss's judgment.

— **grained** /'greɪnd/ *adj* • beautifully *grained* wood • coarse-*grained* leather

grain elevator *noun*, pl ~ -tors [count] : ELEVATOR 2

grainy /'greɪni/ *adj* **grain·i·er**; -est [also more ~; most ~]

1 : not smooth or fine • The mustard has a *grainy* texture. • He has a *grainy* [=rough] voice.

2 of a photograph : not clear or sharp because of having a picture formed from many dots that are large enough to be seen • a *grainy* photograph

— **grain·i·ness** *noun* [noncount] • the *graininess* of the mustard/picture

gram also Brit **gramme** /'græm/ *noun*, pl *grams* [count] : a unit of weight in the metric system that is equal to 1/1000 kilogram

gram·mar /'græmə/ *noun*, pl -mars

1 : the set of rules that explain how words are used in a language [noncount] the rules of *grammar* • English *grammar* can be hard to master. • a *grammar* lesson • comparing English and Japanese *grammar* [count] comparing the *grammars* of English and Japanese

2 [noncount] : speech or writing judged by how well it follows the rules of grammar • “Him and I went” is bad/poor *grammar*. • I know some German, but my *grammar* isn't very good.

3 [count] : a book that explains the grammar rules of a language • an English *grammar*

gram·mar·i·an /grə'merɪjən/ *noun*, pl -ans [count] : a person who knows a lot about grammar

grammar school *noun*, pl ~ schools [count, noncount]

1 : a school in the U.S. for young children : ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

2 : a school in Britain for children over age 11 who have passed an entrance exam

gram·mat·i·cal /grə'mætɪkəl/ *adj*

1 : of or relating to grammar • a *grammatical* error • *grammatical* rules

2 : following the rules of grammar • That sentence is not *grammatical*.

— **gram·mat·i·cal·ly** /grə'mætɪkli/ *adv* • That sentence is *grammatically* incorrect.

gramme Brit spelling of GRAM

Gram·my /'græmi/ *service mark* — used for a small statue that is given as an award to someone (such as a musician) who works in the business of recording music

gram·o·phone /'græmə'foun/ *noun*, pl -phones [count] old-fashioned : RECORD PLAYER

gramps /'græmps/ or **gramp** /'græmp/ *noun*, pl *gramps* [count] informal : GRANDFATHER

gran /'græn/ *noun*, pl *grans* [count] informal : GRANDMOTHER

gra·na·ry /'greɪnəri, Brit 'grænəri/ *noun*, pl -ries [count] : a building in which grain is stored

grand /'grænd/ *adj* **grand·er**; -est

1 : involving or including many people or things : very large in scope • He thinks everything the government does is part of some *grand* conspiracy. • the beauty of nature's *grand* design : intended to have an important or impressive result • When they bought the house, they had *grand* [=big] plans for renovating it. ♦ Something that happens or is done on a *grand scale* involves a great amount of money, effort, space, people, or things. • War forces us to face death on a *grand scale*. • Pollution affects nature on a *grand scale*.

2 a : impressive because of size, importance, etc. • The neighborhood includes many *grand* old homes. • His job is much less *grand* than his title makes it sound. • This room is only used for *grand* occasions. [=very important and formal occasions] • My great aunt lived to the *grand old age* of 103. • (humorous) He retired at the *grand old age* of 37. b : intended to impress people • Despite its *grand* name, the hotel is small and somewhat seedy. • He made some *grand* statements about the company's future. • They celebrated their anniversary in *grand style*. • He planned to make a *grand entrance*, driving up to the house in a fancy red sports car.

3 always used before a noun : having higher rank than others of the same kind • We won the *grand prize*. • the *grand champion* • a *Grand Duke/Duchess*

4 informal : very good • We are having *grand* weather this summer. • We had a *grand* time at the picnic.

— **grand·ly** *adv* • She *grandly* announced that the ceremony was about to begin.

grand *noun*, pl *grand* [count] informal : a thousand dollars

or pounds • **He bought a used car for about five grand.**
— compare ³GRAND

³**grand** *noun, pl grands* [count] : GRAND PIANO • a concert **grand** — compare ²GRAND

grand-ba-by /'grænd,beɪbi/ *noun, pl -bies* [count] *informal* : a grandchild who is a baby

grand-child /'grænd,tʃaɪld/ *noun, pl -chil-dren* /-tʃɪldrən/ [count] : a child of your son or daughter

grand-dad also **gran-dad** /'grænd,dæd/ *noun, pl -dads* [count] *informal* : GRANDFATHER

grand-dad-dy also **gran-dad-dy** /'grænd,dædi/ *noun, pl -dies* [count] *informal*

1 : GRANDFATHER

2 : someone or something that is the first or oldest one in a particular area or field — usually + *of* • **The company is the granddaddy of computer manufacturers.**

grand-daugh-ter /'grænd,dɑ:tə/ *noun, pl -ters* [count] : a daughter of your son or daughter

grande dame /'grɑ:n'dɑ:m/ *noun, pl grandes dames* /'grɑ:n'dɑ:m/ also **grande dames** /'grɑ:n'dɑ:m/ [count] : a usually old woman who is highly admired or respected — often + *of* • **She is the grande dame of the American theater.**

gran-deur /'grændʒə/ *noun* [noncount] : a great and impressive quality • **His paintings capture the beauty and grandeur of the landscape.** • **They are restoring the hotel to its original/former grandeur.** — see also *delusions of grandeur* at DELUSION

grand-fa-ther /'grænd,fɑ:ðə/ *noun, pl -thers* [count] : the father of your father or mother

grandfather clause *noun, pl ~ clauses* [count] *US, law* : a part of a law which says that the law does not apply to certain people and things because of conditions that existed before the law was passed • **Because of a grandfather clause, the strict emission standards only apply to new cars.**

grandfather clock *noun, pl ~ clocks* [count] : a tall clock that stands on the floor

grand finale *noun, pl ~ -les* [count] : a very exciting or impressive ending of a performance or show • **All of the performers came on stage for the opera's grand finale.**

gran-dil-o-quent /græn'dɪləkwənt/ *adj* [more ~; most ~] *formal* : using words that are intended to sound very impressive and important • **grandiloquent language** • **He's fond of making grandiloquent pronouncements about art.** • a **grandiloquent speaker**

— **gran-dil-o-quence** /græn'dɪləkwəns/ *noun* [noncount]

— **gran-dil-o-quent-ly** *adv*

gran-di-ose /'grændi,ɔs/ *adj* [more ~; most ~] *disapproving* : seeming to be impressive or intended to be impressive but not really possible or practical • **He was full of grandiose ideas.** • **grandiose plans/schemes**

— **gran-di-ose-ly** *adv*

grand jury *noun, pl ~ juries* [count] *US, law* : a group of people who look at the evidence against someone who has been accused of a crime in order to decide if there should be a trial

grand-kid /'grænd,kɪd/ *noun, pl -kids* [count] *US, informal* : GRANDCHILD

grand larceny *noun* [noncount] *US, law* : the crime of stealing something that is very valuable — called also **grand theft**; compare PETIT LARCENY

grand-ma /'græ,mɑ:/ *noun, pl -mas* [count] *informal* : GRANDMOTHER

grand marshal *noun, pl ~ -shals* [count] *chiefly US* : a person who is honored by being made the leader of a parade

grand master *noun, pl ~ -ters* [count] : an expert player in chess who has scored very high in international competition

grand-moth-er /'grænd,mʌðə/ *noun, pl -ers* [count] : the mother of your father or mother

grand old man *noun, pl ~ men* [count] : a highly respected and admired man who has had a long career in a particular field • **the grand old man of the American theater**

grand opening *noun, pl ~ -ings* [count] : a special celebration held to mark the opening of a new business or public place (such as a park or stadium)

grand opera *noun, pl ~ -eras* [count, noncount] : serious opera in which all the words are sung

grand-pa /'græm,pɑ:/ *noun, pl -pas* [count] *informal* : GRANDFATHER

grand-par-ent /'grænd,perənt/ *noun, pl -ents* [count] : a parent of your father or mother

grand piano *noun, pl ~ -anos* [count] : a very large piano used for concerts

Grand Prix /'grɑ:n'pri:/ *noun, pl Grand Prix or Grands Prix* /'grɑ:n'pri:/ [count] : one of a series of international car races; also : a similar race or competition in another sport (such as sailing)

grand slam *noun, pl ~ slams* [count]

1 *baseball* : a home run that is hit with three runners on base

2 or **Grand Slam** : the achievement of winning of all the major events of a sport (such as tennis or golf) in one season — usually singular • **a golfer trying to win the Grand Slam**

3 : the achievement of winning of all the tricks in one hand of a card game (such as bridge) • **He made a grand slam.**

grand-son /'grænd,sʌn/ *noun, pl -sons* [count] : a son of your son or daughter

¹**grand-stand** /'grænd,stænd/ *noun, pl -stands* [count] : a usually roofed structure with seats for people to sit on while they are watching a race or sporting event

²**grandstand** *adj, always used before a noun, US* : done in a way that is intended to impress the people who are watching • **The outfielder made a grandstand play out of what should have been a routine catch.**

³**grandstand** *verb -stands; -stand-ed; -stand-ing* [no obj] *US, disapproving* : to behave or speak in a way that is intended to impress people and to get public approval • a politician who **grandstands** to the public = a **grandstanding** politician

— **grand-stand-er** *noun, pl -ers* [count] — **grand-standing** *noun* [noncount] • **He has been accused of political grandstanding.**

grand theft *noun* [noncount] *US, law* : GRAND LARCENY

grand total *noun, pl ~ -tals* [count] : a final total reached by adding together other total amounts — usually singular • **They have managed to raise a grand total of \$15 million in the past two years.** ✧ *Grand total* is often used in a humorous or critical way to refer to a total that is unusually small. • **A grand total of two people have signed up for the class.** • **They scored a grand total of three points in the first quarter.**

grand tour *noun, pl ~ tours* [count]

1 or **Grand Tour** : a journey to the different countries of Europe that in the past was part of the education of wealthy young people from Britain and the U.S.

2 : a tour that is given to show people around a place • **They offered to give us a/the grand tour of their new house.**

gran-ite /'grænət/ *noun* [noncount] : a very hard type of rock that is used in buildings and monuments

gran-ny also **gran-nie** /'græni/ *noun, pl -nies* [count] *informal* : GRANDMOTHER

granny flat *noun, pl ~ flats* [count] *Brit* : IN-LAW APARTMENT

granny knot *noun, pl ~ knots* [count] : a type of knot that looks similar to a square knot but is much less strong

gra-no-la /grə'nəʊlə/ *noun, pl -las* [count, noncount] *chiefly US* : a mixture of oats and other ingredients (such as brown sugar, raisins, coconut, or nuts) that is eaten especially for breakfast or as a snack • a bowl of **granola** • a **granola bar** [=a bar of granola that is eaten as a snack]

¹**grant** /'grænt, Brit 'grɑ:nt/ *verb grants; grant-ed; grant-ing* [+ obj]

1 **a** : to agree to do, give, or allow (something asked for or hoped for) • **The mayor refused to grant my request for an interview.** • **The court granted the motion for a new trial.** • **She granted me an interview.** [=she agreed to let me interview her] • **She rarely grants interviews.** [=she rarely agrees to be interviewed] • **I cannot grant you that wish.** **b** : to give (something) legally or formally • **The government has agreed to grant the refugees asylum.** = **The government has agreed to grant asylum to the refugees.** • **We haven't yet been granted access to the archive.** • **The country was granted independence in 1950.** • **The judge granted custody of the children to their mother.** — see also **grant bail** at ¹BAIL

2 : to admit (something) although it does not agree with or support your opinion • **I grant that he's a talented writer, but I just don't find his books very interesting.** • **The house is not in perfect condition, I grant you** [=I admit that the house is not in perfect condition], but it's still a great deal. • **The house is not perfect, I grant you that.** — often used in the form **granted** or **granting** to introduce a clause • **Granted that she's been under a lot of stress lately, her behavior is still surprising.** [=I admit that she has been under a lot of stress lately, but I am still surprised by her behavior] • **Even granting that you may be right** [=even if you are right], I still think we

need to consider other solutions. — often used in the form *granted* as an adverb • *Granted*, the house is not in perfect condition, but it's still a great deal. • "The house is not in very good condition." "*Granted* [=I admit that what you say is true]—but it's still a great deal."

take for granted 1 **take (something) for granted** : to believe or assume that (something) is true or probably true without knowing that it is true • *We took our invitation to the party for granted.* = *We took it for granted* that we'd be invited to the party. [=we assumed we'd be invited and did not think about the possibility that we wouldn't be] 2 **take (someone or something) for granted** : to fail to properly notice or appreciate (someone or something that is helpful or important to you) • *We often take our freedom for granted.* • Being apart from my family for so long has made me realize that I've been *taking them for granted.* • I'm tired of being *taken for granted.*

²**grant** *noun, pl grants* [count]

1 : an amount of money that is given to someone by a government, a company, etc., to be used for a particular purpose (such as scientific research) • Her study is being funded by a federal *grant*. • a research *grant* • They wrote a *grant* proposal to get funding for the project.

2 : an area of land that is given to someone by a government • a land *grant*

gran·u·lar /'græn.jəl.ə/ *adj* [more ~; most ~] : made of or appearing to be made of small pieces or granules • *granular* rock • fruit with a *granular* [=grainy] texture • a *granular* [=bumpy] leather surface

gran·u·lat·ed /'græn.jə.leɪ.təd/ *adj* : formed into small grains or pieces • *granulated* sugar

gran·ule /'græn.ju:l/ *noun, pl -ules* [count] : a small grain or piece of something • *coffee granules* • salt/sugar *granules*

grape /'greɪp/ *noun, pl grapes* [count] : a green, dark red, or purplish-black berry that is used to make wine or is eaten as a fruit • a bunch of seedless *grapes* — see color picture on page C5; see also SOUR GRAPES

grape·fruit /'greɪp.fru:t/ *noun, pl grapefruit or grapefruits* [count, noncount] : a large yellow citrus fruit — see color picture on page C5

grape·vine /'greɪp.vain/ *noun, pl -vines* [count]

1 : a climbing plant on which grapes grow

2 : an informal way of spreading information or rumors through conversation — usually singular • The office *grapevine* isn't always a reliable source of information. • I heard about the new position *through the grapevine*. • The word *on the grapevine* is that a new treatment has been discovered.

¹**graph** /'græf, Brit 'grɑ:f/ *noun, pl graphs* [count] : a drawing that uses a series of dots, lines, etc., to show how much or how quickly something changes • She drew/plotted a *graph* showing the rise and fall in temperature during the month.

²**graph** *verb* **graphs; graphed; graph-ing** [+ *obj*] *mathematics* : to show (something) with a graph • Students were asked to *graph* each equation.

-graph /'græf, Brit 'grɑ:f/ *noun combining form*

1 : something that is written or drawn • an *autograph*

2 : a machine that records or sends information • a *seismograph* • a *telegraph*

¹**graph·ic** /'græf.ɪk/ *adj*

1 [more ~; most ~] : shown or described in a very clear way — used especially to refer to things that are unpleasant or shocking • The reporter provided a *graphic* account of the plane crash. • The movie was controversial because of its *graphic* [=explicit] violence. • *graphic* sex • *graphic* language

2 *always used before a noun* : relating to the artistic use of pictures, shapes, and words especially in books and magazines • *graphic* design • a *graphic* artist/designer

²**graphic** *noun, pl -ics*

1 **graphics** [*plural*] : pictures or images on the screen of a computer, television, etc. • *computer graphics*

2 [count] : a picture, drawing, or graph used as a decoration or to make something (such as magazine article) easier to understand • She illustrated her talk with a *graphic* showing state population growth.

graph·i·cal /'græf.ɪ.kəl/ *adj, technical*

1 : relating to or involving pictures, shapes, or letters especially on the screen of a computer • a *graphical* computer display — see also GRAPHICAL USER INTERFACE

2 : using a drawing (called a graph) to show how much or how quickly something changes • a *graphical* representation of rainfall amounts

graph·i·cal·ly /'græf.ɪ.kli/ *adv*

1 : in a very clear way that usually includes unpleasant or shocking details • The crash was *graphically* described.

2 : in a graph • The information was presented *graphically*.

graphical user interface *noun, pl ~ -faces* [count] : a program that allows a person to work easily with a computer by using a mouse to point to small pictures and other elements on the screen — abbr. *GUI*

graphic novel *noun, pl ~ -els* [count] : cartoon drawings that tell a story and are published as a book

graph·ite /'græ.fait/ *noun* [noncount] : a shiny black substance that is used in pencils

graph paper *noun, pl ~ -ers* [count] : paper that is covered with squares formed by lines that run from top to bottom and side to side

-graphy /'græfi/ *noun combining form* : a way of writing or showing something • *photography* • *cartography* • *mammography*

grap·ple /'græ.pəl/ *verb* **grap·ples; grap·pled; grap·pling** [*no obj*]

1 : to hold and fight with another person • The wrestlers *grappled* [=wrestled] on the mat. — usually + *with* • The wrestlers *grappled with* each other.

2 : to try to solve a problem : to deal with a problem — + *with* • Every parent has to *grapple with* [=cope with] a variety of serious issues. • The company has been *grappling with* supply problems.

-grap·pler /'græ.pəl.ə/ *noun, pl -plers* [count] • a famous *grappler* [=wrestler]

¹**grasp** /'græsp, Brit 'grɑ:sp/ *verb* **grasps; grasped; grasping** [+ *obj*]

1 : to take and hold (something) with your fingers, hands, etc. • I *grasped* the end of the rope and pulled as hard as I could. • I *grasped* the rope by its end. • His arthritis is so bad he can barely *grasp* a pencil. — often used figuratively • We need to *grasp* [=seize] this opportunity while we can.

2 : to understand (something that is complicated or difficult) • They failed to *grasp* [=comprehend] the importance of talking to their children about the dangers of taking drugs. • They don't (fully) *grasp* the implications of these changes.

grasp at [*phrasal verb*] **grasp at (something)** : to try to take or get (something) in an eager or desperate way • They were ready to *grasp at* any possible solution. • He *grasped at* the opportunity to speak with her.

grasp at straws see STRAW

grasp for [*phrasal verb*] **grasp for (something)** : to try in a desperate or awkward way to get (something) • His sudden decision to quit the race has left his supporters *grasping for* explanations. • *grasping for* attention

grasp the nettle see ²NETTLE

-grasp·able /'græspə.bəl, Brit 'grɑ:spə.bəl/ *adj* • an easily *graspable* idea

²**grasp** *noun* [*singular*]

1 : a usually strong hold • I kept a firm *grasp* on the rope. [=I held the rope firmly with my hand] • The ball slipped/fell from her *grasp*. [=she dropped the ball]

2 : an understanding of something • She has a good/firm/thorough *grasp* of mathematics. [=she understands mathematics well] • The author shows a weak/feeble/shaky *grasp* of military strategy. • His motives are *beyond my grasp*. [=I can't understand his motives] • We're still trying to *get a grasp on* [=to gain a good understanding of] the situation.

3 **a** : the distance that can be reached by your arms and hands : REACH • The books on the top shelf are just *beyond my grasp*. • She moved the toy to within the baby's *grasp*. • He tried to grab the rolling ball, but it *eluded his grasp*. [=he could not reach it] **b** : the ability to get or find something • Success is almost *within our grasp*. [=we are very close to success] • She felt the solution was *within her grasp*.

4 : power or control • The land was in the *grasp* [=grip] of a tyrant. • He had the country in his *grasp*.

grasping /'græspɪŋ, Brit 'grɑ:spɪŋ/ *adj* [more ~; most ~] : wanting money and possessions too much : GREEDY • Her *grasping* children fought over her property when she died.

¹**grass** /'græs, Brit 'grɑ:s/ *noun, pl grass-es*

1 **a** [noncount] : plants that have narrow green leaves; that are eaten by cows, sheep, horses, etc., and that are commonly grown on lawns and in gardens • a field of *grass* • blades/ tufts of *grass* • It's time to mow/cut the *grass*. [=mow/cut the lawn] • Keep off the *grass*. [=don't walk on the lawn] — often used before another noun • *grass* clippings • *grass* seed • a *grass* hut/skirt [=a hut/skirt made from grass] **b** [count] : a particular type of grass • ornamental *grasses* • wild *grasses*

2 [noncount] *slang* : MARIJUANA • They were smoking some *grass*.

3 [count] *Brit slang* : a person who gives information to the police about the criminal activity of other people : a police informer — see also SUPERGRASS

let the grass grow under your feet : to wait before doing something or to do something slowly — used in negative statements • He has never been one to *let the grass grow under his feet*. [=he has never been slow about doing things; he gets things done quickly]

put (someone) out to grass *Brit* : to force (someone) to leave a job because of old age • I'm not ready to be *put out to grass* [=put out to pasture] just yet.

the grass is always greener on the other side (of the fence) — used to say that the things you do not have always seem more appealing than the things you do have

— **grass-like** /'græs,laɪk, *Brit* 'grɑ:s,laɪk/ *adj* • *grasslike* vegetation — **grassy** /'græsi, *Brit* 'grɑ:si/ *adj* **grass-i-er**; **-est** • a *grassy* field

²grass *verb* **grasses**; **grassed**; **grass-ing** [+ *obj*] : to cover (an area) with grass • a large *grassed* area — often + *over* • The land was cleared and *grassed over*.

grass on/up [*phrasal verb*] **grass on** (someone) *also* **grass (someone) up** *Brit slang* : to tell the police about the criminal activity of (someone) • He refused to *grass on* [=inform on] his friends. • Someone *grassed him up*.

grass-hop-per /'græs,hɑ:pə, *Brit* 'grɑ:s,hɒpə/ *noun*, *pl* **-pers** [count] : a plant-eating insect that has long legs used for jumping — see color picture on page C10

grass-land /'græs,lænd, *Brit* 'grɑ:s,lænd/ *noun*, *pl* **-lands** [count, noncount] : land covered with grasses and other soft plants but not with bushes and trees

grass roots *noun* [*plural*] : the ordinary people in a society or organization : the people who do not have a lot of money and power • He has been criticized for losing touch with the party's *grass roots*. • Many people in/at the *grass roots* are still angry about the election.

— **grass-roots** /'græs,rʊts, *Brit* 'grɑ:s,rʊts/ *adj*, *always used before a noun* • A *grassroots* environmental movement has sprung up. • The young candidate hoped to gather votes at the *grassroots* level in his own neighborhood.

¹grate /'greɪt/ *noun*, *pl* **grates** [count] : a metal frame with bars across it that is used in a fireplace or to cover an opening

²grate *verb* **grates**; **grat-ed**; **grat-ing**

1 [+ *obj*] : to cut (food) into very small pieces by rubbing it against a special tool (called a grater) • I'll beat the eggs while you *grate* the cheese. • *grate* chocolate/carrots • The recipe calls for half a cup of *grated* cheese.

2 [*no obj*] : to make a harsh, unpleasant noise by rubbing against something • metal *grating* against metal • I hear a loud *grating* sound whenever I step on the brake.

3 [*no obj*] : to have an annoying effect • His negative attitude begins to *grate* after a while. [=his attitude becomes very irritating after a while] — often + *on* • His negative attitude is starting to *grate on* me. [=starting to bother or irritate me] • Her shrill voice can really *grate on* your nerves/ear.

— **grating** *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] • She has a very *grating* [=annoying, irritating] voice.

G-rated /'dʒi:'reɪtəd/ *adj*, *US*, *of a movie* : having a rating of G : suitable to be seen by children : having no violence, offensive language, or sexual activity • a *G-rated* film — often used figuratively • She's an actress with a *G-rated* public image. [=people think she is a wholesome person] • some *G-rated* fun for the whole family

grate-ful /'greɪtfəl/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : feeling or showing thanks • She was *grateful* (that) she didn't have to work on the holiday. • the *grateful* [=thankful] recipient of a new heart • The college sent us a *grateful* acknowledgment of our donation. : feeling or showing thanks to someone for some helpful act • I'm *grateful* to you for your help. • He's *grateful* for the attention. • I'm *grateful* (to you) for this opportunity. = I'm *grateful* to have this opportunity. = I'm *grateful* that I have this opportunity. • a *grateful* smile — opposite UN-GRATEFUL

— **grate-ful-ly** *adv* • The college *gratefully* [=thankfully] acknowledges your donation. — **grate-ful-ness** *noun* [noncount] • expressing my *gratefulness* [= (more commonly) *gratitude*] for this opportunity

grat-er /'greɪtə/ *noun*, *pl* **-ers** [count] : a tool that has a rough metal surface with small holes and is used to cut food into small pieces • a cheese *grater* — see picture at KITCHEN

grat-i-fy /'grætə,faɪ/ *verb* **-fies**; **-fied**; **-fy-ing** [+ *obj*] *formal*
1 : to make (someone) happy or satisfied • A guilty verdict would *gratify* the victim's relatives. • It *gratifies* [=pleases] me to see how well the book is doing. — often used as (*be*) *gratified* • He's *gratified* by the response he's been getting.

2 : to do or give whatever is wanted or demanded by (someone or something) • He's only concerned with *gratifying* his own desires. • *gratify* a whim • I'll be happy to *gratify* [=satisfy] your curiosity.

— **grat-i-fi-ca-tion** /,grætəfə'keɪʃən/ *noun*, *pl* **-tions** [noncount] He's only concerned with selfish *gratification* of his own desires. [count] Her life now offers few *gratifications*. [=few sources of satisfaction or pleasure] — **gratified** *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] • He's very/highly *gratified* that his students have done so well. • She was *gratified* to see her ideas become so widely accepted.

gratifying *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : giving pleasure or satisfaction • It was a *gratifying* victory. • The response has been *gratifying*. • It's been very *gratifying* (to me) to see how well the book has done.

— **grat-i-fy-ing-ly** *adv*

gratin /'grɑ:tɪn, *Brit* 'grætæn/ *noun*, *pl* **-tins** [count] : a dish that has bread crumbs or cheese on top and is cooked in an oven — see also AU GRATIN

grat-ing /'greɪtɪŋ/ *noun*, *pl* **-ings** [count] : a frame with bars across it that is used to cover an opening

grat-is /'grætəs/ *adv* — used to indicate that no money is paid for something • The food was supplied *gratis* [=for free; at no cost; without charge] by a local caterer.

— **gratis** *adj* • The food was *gratis*. [=free] • *gratis* hotel accommodations

grat-i-tude /'grætə,tu:d, *Brit* 'grætə,tju:d/ *noun* [noncount] : a feeling of appreciation or thanks • Let me express my sincere *gratitude* for all your help. • We remember with *gratitude* those who died defending our country. • We owe them a *debt of gratitude* [=we should be grateful to them] for all the help they've given us. — opposite INGRATITUDE

grat-u-i-tous /grə'tu:wətəs, *Brit* grə'tju:ətəs/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *formal* : not necessary or appropriate • The film was criticized for its *gratuitous* violence. • *gratuitous* insults

— **grat-u-i-tous-ly** *adv* • a *gratuitously* violent film — **grat-u-i-tous-ness** *noun* [noncount]

grat-u-i-ty /grə'tu:wəti, *Brit* grə'tju:əti/ *noun*, *pl* **-ties** [count]

1 *formal* : an amount of money given to a person (such as a waiter or waitress) who has performed a service : TIP • A 15 percent *gratuity* is automatically added to the restaurant bill.

2 *Brit* : an amount of money given to a retiring soldier or employee

¹grave /'greɪv/ *noun*, *pl* **graves** [count]

1 : a hole in the ground for burying a dead body • dig a *grave* • The casket was lowered into the *grave*. • He was buried in a shallow *grave*. • We went to the cemetery to visit my aunt's *grave*. [=to visit the place where my aunt's body is buried] • A headstone marks her son's *grave*. • **grave robbers** [=people who dig up a buried body to steal the things that were buried with it] ♠ When people think that a dead person would be very shocked or upset to see something that is happening now, they say that person is or must be *turning/spinning in his/her grave* or *US turning over in his/her grave* or *US rolling (over) in his/her grave*. • The company founder must be *turning in his grave* because of the changes we've made.

2 — used to talk about death • She took her secrets with her to the *grave*. [=she died without telling anyone her secrets] • He believes that there is life *beyond the grave*. [=that there is life after death] • A hard life *drove him to an early grave*. [=caused him to die when he was fairly young] • She *went to her grave* [=she died] a lonely and bitter woman.

dig your own grave see ¹DIG

from (the) cradle to (the) grave see ¹CRADLE

have one foot in the grave see ¹FOOT

²grave *adj* **grav-er**; **-est** [*also more* ~; *most* ~]

1 *formal* : very serious : requiring or causing serious thought or concern • This violation of school rules is a *grave* matter. • His carelessness could have *grave* consequences. • They have placed themselves in *grave* danger. • I have *grave* doubts about this plan. • suffering from a *grave* illness

2 : serious and formal in appearance or manner • The judge issued his ruling with a *grave* expression.

3 /'grɑ:v/ *of an accent mark* : having the form ` • The French word *père* is written with a *grave* accent over the first *e*.

— compare ACUTE 7

— **grave-ly** *adv* • My mother is *gravely* [=seriously] ill. • He shook his head *gravely*.

grave-dig-ger /'greɪv,dɪgə/ *noun*, *pl* -gers [*count*] : a person whose job it is to dig graves

grav-el /'grævəl/ *noun* [*noncount*] : small pieces of rock • a layer of *gravel* — often used before another noun • a *gravel* road [=a road with a top surface made of gravel] • a *gravel* pit [=a large hole in the ground where gravel has been dug up]

grav-el-ly /'grævəli/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]

1 : containing or covered with gravel • *gravelly* soil

2 : having a rough sound • a *gravelly* voice

grav-en image /'greɪvən-/ *noun*, *pl* ~ -ages [*count*] : an object (such as a statue) that is worshipped as a god or in place of a god

grave-stone /'greɪv,stəʊn/ *noun*, *pl* -stones [*count*] : a stone that marks the place where a dead person is buried and that usually has the person's name and birth and death dates on it : HEADSTONE, TOMBSTONE

grave-yard /'greɪv,jɑːd/ *noun*, *pl* -yards [*count*]

1 : a place where people are buried : CEMETERY ♦ *Graveyard* usually refers to a small cemetery, such as one that is next to a church.

2 : a place where old things are left or thrown away • an automobile *graveyard*

whistle past the graveyard see ²WHISTLE

graveyard shift *noun*, *pl* ~ shifts [*count*] *chiefly* US : a scheduled period of work that begins late at night and ends in the morning

grav-i-tas /'grævə,tɑːs/ *noun*, *formal* : a very serious quality or manner [*noncount*] The new leader has an air of *gravitas* that commands respect. • a comic actress who lacks the *gravitas* for dramatic roles [*singular*] The new leader has a certain *gravitas*.

grav-i-tate /'grævə,tet/ *verb* -tates; -tat-ed; -tat-ing [*no obj*]

1 : to move or tend to move *to* or *toward* someone or something • The guests *gravitated toward* the far side of the room. • The conversation *gravitated to/toward* politics.

2 : to be attracted *to* or *toward* something or someone • Voters have started *gravitating to* him as a possible candidate. • Many young people now *gravitate toward* careers in the computer industry.

grav-i-ta-tion /,grævə'teɪʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*]

1 *technical* : the natural force that causes things to fall towards the earth : GRAVITY

2 : movement *to* or *toward* someone or something • the *gravitation* of young people *to/toward* computer careers

— **grav-i-ta-tion-al** /,grævə'teɪʃənəl/ *adj*, *technical* • the Earth's *gravitational* field — **grav-i-ta-tion-al-ly** *adv*, *technical*

grav-i-ty /'grævəti/ *noun* [*noncount*]

1 : a very serious quality or condition : the condition of being grave or serious • They didn't seem to understand the *gravity* [=seriousness] of the situation. • He uttered the oath with proper *gravity*. [=solemnity]

2 *technical* : the natural force that tends to cause physical things to move towards each other : the force that causes things to fall towards the Earth • attempting to defy *gravity* • the force of *gravity* — see also CENTER OF GRAVITY

gra-vy /'greɪvi/ *noun*, *pl* -vies

1 [*count*, *noncount*] : a sauce made from the juices of cooked meat • mashed potatoes with *gravy* • a *gravy* boat [=a container for serving gravy]

2 [*noncount*] *chiefly* US, *informal* : something valuable or pleasing that is more than what is earned or expected • The bonus he received in addition to his salary was pure *gravy*.

gravy train *noun*, *pl* ~ trains [*count*] *informal* : something (such as a business or a government program) that provides money to many people without requiring much work or effort • They're trying to get on board the *gravy train*. • ride the *gravy train*

¹**gray** (US) or *chiefly* Brit **grey** /'greɪ/ *adj* gray-er; -est

1 : having a color between black and white : having a color that is like the color of smoke • a *gray* sweater/suit • *gray* hair

2 : having gray hair • What will you do when you are old and *gray*? • My friends have all gone *gray*.

3 : lacking brightness: such as a : cloudy and dark • It was a *gray* winter day. • a cold, *gray* dawn b : very boring or ordinary • leading a *gray* existence c : having or showing little life or energy • the *gray* faces of the people in the crowd

— **gray-ness** (US) or *chiefly* Brit **grey-ness** *noun* [*non-*

count] • the *grayness* of the dawn

²**gray** (US) or *chiefly* Brit **grey** *noun*, *pl* grays

1 [*count*, *noncount*] : a color that is between black and white : a color that is like the color of smoke • wearing *gray* • shades of *gray* — see color picture on page C1

2 [*count*] : something (such as an animal) that is gray

— **gray-ish** (US) or *chiefly* Brit **grey-ish** /'greɪɪʃ/ *adj*

³**gray** (US) or *chiefly* Brit **grey** *verb* grays; grayed; gray-ing [*no obj*]

1 : to become gray • His hair is *graying*. = He has *graying* hair.

2 : to become older • The population is *graying*.

gray area *noun*, *pl* ~ areas [*count*] : an area or situation in which it is difficult to judge what is right and what is wrong • There are no *gray areas* in the rules. • a legal *gray area*

gray matter *noun* [*noncount*] : the tissue that makes up the brain — often used figuratively to refer to a person's intelligence • His books are enjoyable, but they don't do much to challenge the reader's *gray matter*. [=intelligence]

¹**graze** /'greɪz/ *verb* graz-es; grazed; graz-ing

1 a of an animal : to eat grass or other plants that are growing in a field, pasture, etc. [*no obj*] The cattle *grazed* (on grass) in the field. • *grazing* cattle [+ *obj*] Fields *grazed* by cattle. b [+ *obj*] : to cause (animals) to graze • We *grazed* our cattle on the front pasture.

2 [*no obj*] : to eat small amounts of food at many times during the day • She *was grazing* on snacks all afternoon.

— compare ²GRAZE

²**graze** *verb* grazes; grazed; grazing [+ *obj*]

1 : to touch or hit (something) while moving past it • The car's wheel *grazed* the curb. • He *was grazed* by a bullet.

2 : to injure (the skin, a part of the body, etc.) by scraping against something • She *grazed* her knee when she fell.

— compare ¹GRAZE

³**graze** *noun*, *pl* grazes [*count*] : an injury on your skin that is caused because it moves against something • She had a slight *graze* on her knee from falling.

¹**grease** /'greɪs/ *noun* [*noncount*]

1 : melted animal fat • hamburger/bacon *grease*

2 : an oily substance • axle *grease* — see also ELBOW GREASE

a/the squeaky wheel gets the grease see ¹WHEEL

²**grease** *verb* greas-es; greased; greas-ing [+ *obj*] : to put a thin layer of grease or oil on (something) • *Grease* the pan before you put the cake batter in.

grease the palm of (someone) or US *grease the hand of (someone)* : to give (someone) money for doing something illegal or dishonest for you • They had to *grease the palms* of a few inspectors at city hall to get the permits they needed to start building.

like greased lightning see ¹LIGHTNING

grease monkey *noun*, *pl* ~ -keys [*count*] *informal* : a person who repairs machines (such as car engines) : MECHANIC ♦ *Grease monkey* is usually considered an insulting word.

grease-paint /'greɪs,pet/ *noun* [*noncount*] : makeup worn by actors in the theater

grease-proof paper /'greɪs'pru:f-/ *noun* [*noncount*] Brit : WAX PAPER

greasy /'greɪsi/ *adj* greas-i-er; -est

1 a : covered with grease or oil : dirty from grease or oil • *greasy* clothes/hair/fingers b *chiefly* Brit : wet and slippery • *greasy* roads

2 : containing or cooked with a large amount of fat • My doctor told me to avoid *greasy* food. • *greasy* potato chips

greasy spoon *noun*, *pl* ~ spoons [*count*] *informal* : a small and cheap restaurant • We ate at some *greasy spoon* near the bus station.

¹**great** /'greɪt/ *adj* great-er; -est

1 a : very large in size : very big • all creatures *great* and small — usually used before a noun • a *great* beast • We were surprised by the *great* size of the auditorium. • They traveled through a *great* stretch of wilderness. • a *great* cloud of smoke • A *great* crowd had formed in the city square. • the Great Wall of China • the Great Lakes • (US) The house has a large *great* room. [=a large room used for several different purposes] • (*informal*) They live in a *great* big house. [=a very large house] • (*chiefly* Brit) a huge/whopping *great* elephant b — used in the names of animals that are larger than similar animals • the *great* white shark • the *great* horned owl

2 : very large in amount or extent • The project will require a *great* amount of time and money. • He lived to a *great* age.

[=he lived to be very old] • The show was a *great* [=big, huge] success. • It's been a *great* [=long] while since we last saw them. • He amassed a *great* [=large] fortune. • The building was restored at *great* expense. • a *great* quantity of fish • He explained in *great* [=much] detail how they had met. • These topics need to be discussed in *greater* [=more] depth and at *greater* length. • Our speed/strength/power became *greater* (and *greater*) as we went on. • He made a *great deal* of money. [=he made a large amount of money] • Things could be a *great deal* worse. [=things could be much worse] • He is supported by the *great majority* of voters. [=by most voters]

3 a : very strong • The low cost of these products gives them *great* appeal. • There is a very *great* need for reform. • They're in no *great* hurry to finish. • There is a *great* demand for his services. • She takes a *great* [=considerable] interest in everything her children do. • an actress of *great* charm • with *great* [=strongly felt] sadness/admiration/love • Is there any love *greater* than that between parent and child? • The whole matter must be treated *with great care*. [=very carefully] • His comments are true to a *great extent*. [=most of his comments are true] • This new tax affects everyone to a *greater or lesser degree/extent*. [=to some degree/extent] **b** — used for emphasis before a noun that describes someone • I've always been a *great* admirer of his work. [=I have always admired his work very much] • They are *great* friends. [=they are very friendly] • I'm a *great* believer in the value of patience. [=I believe very much in the value of patience] **c** : very important • This room is only used for *great* occasions. [=grand occasions, very important and formal occasions] **d** : very bad : very extreme or severe • The storm caused *great* damage/destruction. • He was obviously in *great* pain/discomfort. • She has suffered a *great* loss. • It would be a *great* mistake to ignore these problems. • a *great* disaster/misfortune • *great* difficulties • a very *great* error

4 : better than good: such as **a** : of the highest quality • *great* (works of) art/literature • *great* music **b** : very important and admired • a *great* poet/artist • a *great* leader/scientist/thinker/woman • He was a *great* but flawed man. • a *great* discovery/invention • *great* achievements **c** : very talented or successful • My brother is a *great* golfer. • She's a *great* judge of character. • My brother is *great at* (playing) golf. [=my brother plays golf very well] • She is *great at* Chinese cooking. **d informal** : very enjoyable, favorable, etc. : EXCELLENT • "How was the movie?" "It was (really) *great*!" • It was the *greatest*. • The movie got *great* reviews. • We are having *great* weather this summer. • We had a *great* time on our vacation. • a *great* party/lecture/performance • an actress with *great* [=very good-looking] legs • It's *great* to see you again. = It's *great* seeing you again. • This restaurant is *great* for a quick meal. = This is a *great* restaurant for a quick meal. • The food tastes *great*! • *Great* work, everybody! • "I've passed the exam!" "That's *great*!" — often used in the phrases *feel great* and *look great* • You *look great* in that hat. = That hat *looks great* on you. • Things aren't *looking so great* at this point. • He came home early because he wasn't *feeling* too *great*. [=he wasn't feeling well] • I *feel great* just being with her! — sometimes used in an ironic way to describe something that is very bad or upsetting • "I can't find the tickets." "That's (just) *great*! What are we supposed to do now?" • Oh, *great*. Now I've lost the tickets.

5 *always used before a noun* : more distant in a family relationship by one generation • My *great* aunt/uncle is my father's/mother's aunt/uncle. — usually used in combination • My *great-grandfather* is my grandfather's father. • My *great-great-grandmother* is my great-grandfather's mother. • a gift sent to *Great-Uncle* Mike

a great one for informal ♦ If you are a *great one for* (doing) something, you do it often or enjoy doing it very much. • He's a *great one for* (playing) golf. • She's a *great one for* getting other people to do her work.

go great guns see ¹GUN

go to great pains see ¹PAIN

great with child old-fashioned + literary : PREGNANT

no great shakes see ²SHAKE

— *great-ness* *noun* [noncount] • the *greatness* of the need for reform • Shakespeare achieved true/real/genuine *greatness* as a writer.

²*great* *adv* *greater; -est informal* : very well • We had some problems at first, but now things are going just *great*. • Keep up the good work. You're doing *great*!

³*great* *noun, pl* *greats* [count] : a very successful or admired person — usually plural • She is among the *greats* of literature. • He is one of the all-time *greats* in baseball.

great ape *noun, pl* ~ *apes* [count] : ¹APE 1

Great Dane *noun, pl* ~ *Danes* [count] : a very large type of dog

Great-er /'greɪtə/ *adj* : consisting of a central city and the surrounding areas that are connected with it — always used before the name of a place • *Greater* London • *Greater* New York • *Greater* Tokyo

great-ly /'greɪtli/ *adv* [more ~; most ~] : to a great extent or degree : very much • She has contributed *greatly* to our success. • They don't seem to be *greatly* bothered by the delay. • I've always admired his work *greatly*. = I've always *greatly* admired his work.

Great Power *noun, pl* ~ *Powers* [count] : a very powerful country

Great Scott /-'ska:t/ *interj, old-fashioned* — used to express surprise • *Great Scott*, is it that late already?!

Gre-cian /'gri:ʃən/ *adj* : of or relating to ancient Greece • a *Grecian* sculpture/urn

greed /'gri:d/ *noun* [noncount] : a selfish desire to have more of something (especially money) • He was a ruthless businessman, motivated by naked ambition and *greed*. • corporate *greed* — sometimes + *for* • He made no effort to conceal his *greed* for money and power.

greedy /'gri:di/ *adj* *greed-i-er; -est*

1 : having or showing a selfish desire to have more of something (such as money or food) : having greed • He was a ruthless and *greedy* businessman. • There's no need to get *greedy*—there's plenty for everyone. • He blames all his problems on *greedy* lawyers. — often + *for* • The children were *greedy* for more candy. • *greedy* for money

2 : very eager to have something — + *for* • He was *greedy* for a promotion. • The company is *greedy* for publicity.

— *greed-i-ly* /'gri:dəli/ *adv* • She *greedily* insisted on special benefits at work. • eating and drinking *greedily*— *greed-i-ness* /'gri:dɪnəs/ *noun* [noncount] • I was surprised by the children's *greediness*.

Greek /'gri:k/ *noun, pl* *Greeks*

1 [count] **a** : a person born, raised, or living in Greece • the ancient *Greeks* • modern *Greeks* **b** : a person whose family is from Greece

2 [noncount] : the language of the Greeks ♦ In informal English you can describe something that you do not understand by saying *It's (all) Greek to me*.

— *Greek* *adj* • *Greek* culture/mythology • the *Greek* alphabet [=the alphabet used for writing Greek]

¹*green* /'gri:n/ *adj* *green-er; -est*

1 : having the color of growing grass • *green* leaves • a *green* sweater

2 a : covered by green grass or other plants • *green* fields **b** : consisting of green plants or of the leaves of plants • a *green* salad

3 : feeling envy — usually used in the phrase *green with envy* • His brother's success made him *green with envy*.

4 a : not ripe yet • *green* tomatoes **b** : not having training, knowledge, or experience • *green* troops • When she arrived at the company she was still very *green* but eager to learn.

5 informal : having a pale or sick appearance • Our flight hit some turbulence, and half the passengers started turning *green*. — often used in the phrase *green around/about the gills* • The passengers were looking *green around the gills*.

6 : trying to protect or meant to protect the natural world : concerned with protecting the environment • She only buys products from *green* companies. • companies that use *green* practices [=companies that do things in a way that helps to protect the environment] • finding *greener* methods of waste disposal

greener pastures see ¹PASTURE

— *green-ish* /'gri:nɪʃ/ *adj* • *greenish* eyes — *green-ness* /'gri:nnəs/ *noun* [noncount] • the *greenness* of the leaves/troops

²*green* *noun, pl* *greens*

1 : a color that is like the color of growing grass [noncount] shades of *green* [count] a mixture of blues and *greens* — see color picture on page C1

2 *greens* [plural] : the leaves of plants used for food • turnip *greens* • salad *greens* — see color picture on page C4

3 [count] **a** : a large area covered with growing grass in the center of a town or village • The town *green* was the center of activity. **b** golf : an area covered with very short grass around the hole into which the ball must be played • It took him four shots to get to the *green*. — called also *putting green*

4 or *Green* [count] : a person who tries to protect the natural



world; *especially* : a person who belongs to a political party that has the protection of the environment as its main goal

green-back /'grɪ:n,bæk/ *noun, pl -backs* [count] *informal* : a piece of U.S. paper money

green bean *noun, pl ~ beans* [count] : a type of bean whose long green seed cases are eaten as a vegetable when they are young and tender — see color picture on page C4; compare STRING BEAN

green card *noun, pl ~ cards* [count] : a card indicating that a person from a foreign country can live and work in the U.S.

green-ery /'grɪ:nəri/ *noun* [noncount] : green leaves or plants • The restaurant was adorned with *greenery*. • the lush *greenery* of the islands

green-eyed monster *noun*

the green-eyed monster *informal* : jealousy thought of as a monster that bites or attacks people • She was bitten by *the green-eyed monster*. [=she became jealous] • *The green-eyed monster* reared its (ugly) head [=I became jealous] when my ex-wife began dating someone else.

green fingers *noun* [plural] *Brit* : an unusual ability to make plants grow • She has *green fingers*. [= (US) a green thumb]

green-fly /'grɪ:n,flaɪ/ *noun, pl green-flies or greenfly* [count] *Brit* : a type of small, green insect that damages plants

green-gro-cer /'grɪ:n,grouzə/ *noun, pl -cers* [count] *chiefly Brit* : a person who works in or owns a store that sells fresh vegetables and fruit • I bought the fruit from the *greengrocer*. = I bought the fruit at the *greengrocer's*.

green-horn /'grɪ:n,hɒn/ *noun, pl -horns* [count] *informal* : a person who lacks experience and knowledge • He's not the most sophisticated businessman you'll ever meet, but he's no *greenhorn*.

green-house

/'grɪ:n,haus/ *noun, pl -houses* [count] : a building or part of a building that has glass walls and a glass roof and that is used for growing plants

greenhouse *adj, always used before a noun* : relating to or caused by the warming of the Earth's atmosphere that is caused by air pollution

: relating to or caused by the greenhouse effect • *greenhouse warming* • carbon dioxide and other *greenhouse gases* [=gases that cause the greenhouse effect]

greenhouse effect *noun*

the greenhouse effect : the warming of the Earth's atmosphere that is caused by air pollution • *The greenhouse effect* occurs when warmth from the sun is trapped in the Earth's atmosphere by a layer of gases (such as carbon dioxide) and water vapor.

green light *noun*

the green light : permission to start or continue something (such as a project) • His boss finally gave him *the green light* [=the go-ahead] to start the new project.

green onion *noun, pl ~ -ions* [count] *US* : a young onion that is pulled from the ground before the bulb has become large — called also (US) *scallion*, (*chiefly Brit*) *spring onion*; see color picture on page C4

Green Paper *noun, pl ~ -pers* [count] *Brit* : a government document that suggests solutions to a problem and that is intended to cause discussion before a law is made — compare WHITE PAPER

green pepper *noun, pl ~ -pers* [count] : a type of hollow vegetable (called a pepper) that is green and that is eaten raw or cooked

green-room /'grɪ:n,ru:m/ *noun, pl -rooms* [count] : a room in a theater or television studio where performers can relax before or after they perform

green-sward /'grɪ:n,swɔ:d/ *noun, pl -swards* [count] *old-fashioned + literary* : an area of ground that is covered with green grass

green tea *noun* [noncount] : a type of tea that is light in color

green thumb *noun* [singular] *US* : an unusual ability to

make plants grow • Thanks to my mother's *green thumb* [= (Brit) *green fingers*], we usually had vegetables fresh from the garden.

— **green-thumbed** /'grɪ:n'θʌmd/ *adj* • a *green-thumbed* gardener

Green-wich mean time /'grɪnɪdʒ-, 'grɛnɪʃ-/ *noun* [singular] : the time in Greenwich, England, that is used as the basis of standard time throughout the world — called also (US) *Greenwich time*

greet /'grɪ:t/ *verb greets; greet-ed; greet-ing* [+ obj]

1 : to meet (someone who has just arrived) with usually friendly and polite words and actions : WELCOME • My husband *greeted* our guests at the door. • She *greeted* him warmly. • She *greeted* him with open arms.

2 : to react to (someone or something) in a specified way. — often + *with* • Her idea was *greeted with* enthusiasm.

3 : to appear to (someone who has just arrived) : to be seen or experienced by (someone) • A chaotic scene *greeted* them. — often used as (be) *greeted* • We were *greeted* by a snowstorm when we arrived at the airport.

greet-er *noun, pl -ers* [count] : someone who greets people as they enter a place • He was hired as a professional *greeter*, welcoming customers to the store.

greeting *noun, pl -ings*

1 : something that is said or done to show people that you are happy to meet or see them [count] He addressed the members of the delegation with a formal *greeting*. • The delegates exchanged *greetings*. [noncount] He held out his hand *in greeting*. [=as a way to greet someone]

2 [count] : a message that expresses good wishes to someone — usually plural • My sister sends you *greetings*. • holiday/season's *greetings*

greeting card *noun, pl ~ cards* [count] *US* : a decorated card with a message of good wishes that is sent or given to someone on a special occasion • holiday *greeting cards* — called also (Brit) *greetings card*; see picture at MAIL

greetings *interj* — used to greet someone who has just arrived • *Greetings!* I'm glad you were able to come.

gre-gar-i-ous /grɪ'gerijəs/ *adj* [more ~; most ~]

1 : enjoying the company of other people • She is *outgoing* and *gregarious*. • a *gregarious* personality

2 *biology* : tending to live in groups • *gregarious* animals

— **gre-gar-i-ous-ly** *adv* — **gre-gar-i-ous-ness** *noun* [noncount]

Gre-go-ri-an calendar /grɪ'gorijən-/ *noun* [singular] : the calendar system that is used by most people in the world today • The Gregorian calendar was introduced in 1582 by Pope Gregory XIII. It is now used throughout the world for legal and business purposes.

Gregorian chant *noun, pl ~ chants* [count, noncount] : a type of religious music from the Middle Ages that is sung without instruments

gremlin /'grɛmlən/ *noun, pl -lins* [count] : a small imaginary creature that is blamed when something (such as a machine) does not work properly • As expected, the new computer network has had its share of *gremlins*. [=there have been problems with the new computer network]

gre-nade /grə'neɪd/ *noun, pl -nades* [count] : a small bomb that is designed to be thrown by someone or shot from a rifle • a *hand grenade* • a *grenade-launcher*

gren-a-dine /,grɛnə'di:n/ *noun* [noncount] : a sweet liquid that is made from a type of red fruit (called a pomegranate) and that is used in alcoholic drinks

grew *past tense of GROW*

grey *chiefly Brit spelling of GRAY*

grey-hound /'greɪ,haʊnd/ *noun, pl -hounds* [count] : a tall, thin dog that runs very fast and that is often used in races

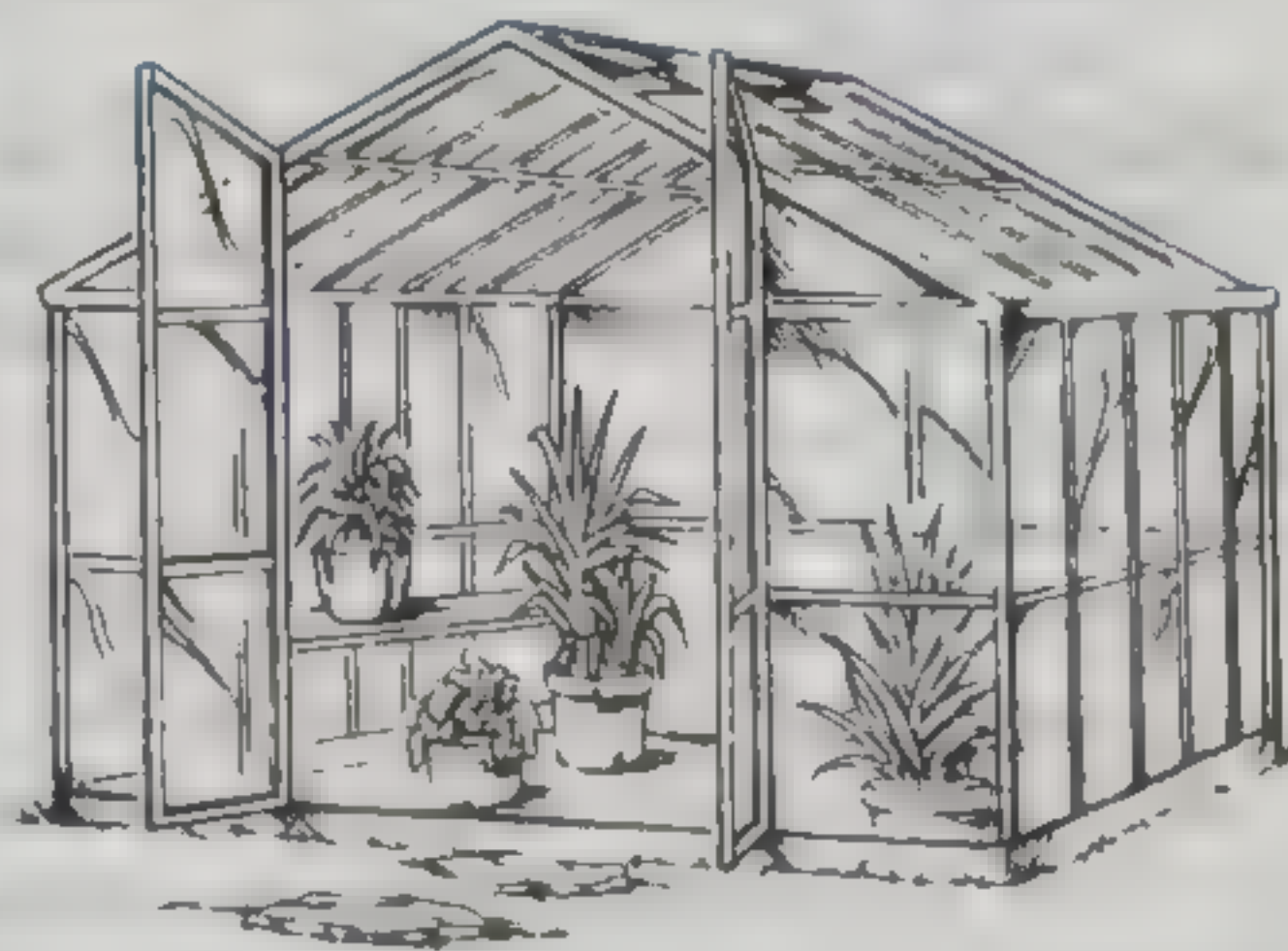
grid /'grɪd/ *noun, pl grids* [count]

1 : a metal frame with bars running across it that is used to cover an opening

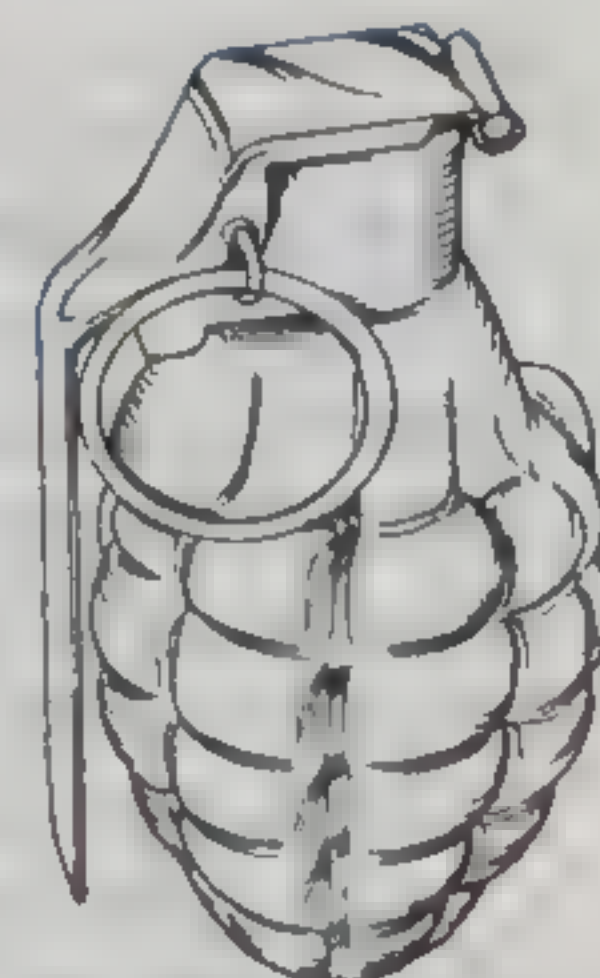
2 : a pattern of lines that cross each other to form squares on a piece of paper, a map, etc. • The students plotted points on a *grid*. • The city streets form a *grid*.

3 : a network of electrical wires and equipment that supplies electricity to a large area

grid-dle /'grɪd/ *noun, pl grid-dles* [count] : a flat surface or pan on which food is cooked



greenhouse



grenade

griddle cake *noun*, *pl* ~ **cakes** [count] chiefly US : PAN-CAKE

grid-iron /'grɪd,ajən/ *noun*, *pl* -irons [count]

1 : a metal grid for cooking food over a fire

2 US, informal : the field on which American football is played • The book recounts his many moments of glory on the *gridiron*. — often used before another noun • *gridiron* glory

grid-lock /'grɪd,lɔ:k/ *noun*

1 : a situation in which streets are so full that vehicles cannot move [noncount] An accident caused *gridlock* at rush hour yesterday. [singular] We were caught in a *gridlock*.

2 : a situation in which no progress can be made [noncount] Disagreements about funding have caused legislative *gridlock* in Congress. [singular] a legislative *gridlock*

— **grid-locked** /'grɪd,lɔ:kt/ *adj* • *gridlocked* streets • Congress remains *gridlocked*.

grief /'gri:f/ *noun*, *pl* **griefs**

1 a [noncount] : deep sadness caused especially by someone's death • He has been unable to recover from his *grief* at/over his son's death. • She was overcome with/by *grief*. b [count] : a cause of deep sadness • the joys and *griefs* of our lives

2 [noncount] informal a : trouble or annoyance • I've had enough *grief* for one day. • Trying to fix the computer isn't worth the *grief*. b : annoying or playful criticism • He's taken/gotten/had a lot of *grief* from his friends. • His friends have been giving him a lot of *grief*.

come to grief : to experience failure, disaster, etc. • The boat *came to grief* on the rocks. • Their plans for opening a restaurant *came to grief* when they failed to get a loan.

good grief informal — used to express surprise or annoyance • "He's burned the toast." "Good *grief*! Can't he do anything right?"

grief-stricken /'gri:f,stri:kən/ *adj* [more ~; most ~] : very sad : deeply affected by grief • The death of his son has left him *grief-stricken*.

grievance /'gri:vəns/ *noun*, *pl* -ances

1 : a feeling of having been treated unfairly [noncount] He has a deep sense of *grievance* against his former employer. [count] She has been nursing a *grievance* all week.

2 [count] : a reason for complaining or being unhappy with a situation • In the petition, the students listed their many *grievances* against the university administration.

3 [count] : a statement in which you say you are unhappy or not satisfied with something • The union has filed a formal *grievance* [=complaint], accusing the company of unfair labor practices. • Several customers came to the front desk to air their *grievances*.

grieve /'gri:v/ *verb* **grieves; grieved; grieving**

1 [+ obj] : to cause (someone) to feel sad or unhappy • It *grieves* me to see my brother struggling like this. • Her decision to live overseas *grieved* her mother.

2 : to feel or show grief or sadness [no obj] People need time to *grieve* after the death of a family member. • The children are still *grieving* for their mother. = The children are *grieving* over their mother's death. • a *grieving* widow [+ obj] The children are still *grieving* the death of their mother.

grievous /'gri:vəs/ *adj* [more ~; most ~] formal : causing great sadness, suffering, or pain : very serious or severe • the *grievous* cost of war • He took a foolish financial risk and suffered a *grievous* loss. • *grievous* bodily harm • a *grievous* error/mistake

— **grievously** *adv* • Several passengers were *grievously* injured in the bus accident.

grif-fin also **grif-fon** or **gryph-on** /'grɪfən/ *noun*, *pl* **grif-fins** also **grif-fons** or **gryph-ons** [count] in stories : an animal that is half eagle and half lion

¹**grill** /'grɪl/ *noun*, *pl* **grills** [count]

1 a : a metal frame that is used to cook food over hot coals or an open fire • She put the hamburgers on the *grill*. b : a cooking device with a grill • a portable gas *grill* c : an electric device in which food is cooked between two hot surfaces

2 : a restaurant that serves grilled or broiled foods • a Mexican *grill* — often used in the names of restaurants • Jackie's Bar and *Grill*

3 : a dish of grilled or broiled food • a seafood *grill* • a mixed *grill* [=a dish of various grilled meats]

4 Brit : BROILER 1

²**grill** *verb* **grills; grilled; grill-ing** [+ obj]

1 chiefly US a : to cook (food) on a metal frame over fire • We're planning to *grill* some chicken and burgers at the

cookout. b : to fry or toast (something, such as a sandwich) on a hot surface • a *grilled* cheese sandwich

2 Brit : to cook (food) directly over or under high heat : BROIL

3 informal : to ask (someone) a series of difficult and unpleasant questions : to question (someone) intensely • The police *grilled* [=interrogated] the suspect for hours. • Her parents *grilled* her when she came home late.

— **grilling** /'grɪlɪŋ/ *noun*, *pl* -ings [non-count] These steaks are perfect for *grilling*. [count] The police gave him a *grilling* about his possible involvement in the robbery.

grille also **grill** /'grɪl/ *noun*, *pl* **grilles** also **grills** [count] : a metal frame with bars running across it that is used to cover or protect something • The vent was covered with a *grille*. • The truck has a large metal *grille* at the front. — see picture at CAR

grim /'grɪm/ *adj* **grim-mer; -mest**

1 : unpleasant or shocking to see or think about • Hikers made a *grim* discovery when they came across a dead body in the woods. • The accident serves as a *grim* reminder of the dangers of drinking and driving.

2 : causing feelings of sadness or worry : gloomy or depressing • a *grim* winter • The prognosis is *grim*—doctors do not expect her to live longer than six months. • He paints a *grim* picture of the prospects for peace.

3 : having a very serious appearance or manner • His face looked *grim*, and we knew his news wouldn't be good. • a *grim* smile • a *grim* taskmaster

4 : strongly felt and serious • *grim* determination

— **grim-ly** *adv* • She spoke *grimly* of the scarcity of jobs.

— **grim-ness** *noun* [noncount]

grim-ace /'grɪməs/ *noun*, *pl* -aces [count] : a facial expression in which your mouth and face are twisted in a way that shows disgust, disapproval, or pain • The patient made/gave a painful *grimace* as the doctor examined his wound.

— **grimace** *verb* -aces; -aced; -ac-ing [no obj] • The patient *grimaced* in pain when his wound was touched.

grime /'graɪm/ *noun* [noncount] : dirt that covers a surface • The windows were coated with *grime*.

— **grimy** /'graɪmi/ *adj* **grim-i-er; -est** • *grimy* [=dirty] windows

Grim Reaper *noun*

the Grim Reaper : death thought of as a man or skeleton holding a scythe and wearing a dark cloak with a hood • a visit from *the Grim Reaper*

grin /'grɪn/ *verb* **grins; grinned; grin-ning** [no obj] : to smile widely • She continued to tease her brother, *grinning* wickedly. • He was *grinning* from ear to ear. [=he was grinning very broadly]

grin and bear it : to accept something that you do not like because you have no choice • I don't agree with their decision, but all I can do is *grin and bear it*.

— **grin** *noun*, *pl* **grins** [count] • He had/wore a foolish/sheepish/big *grin* on his face.

grinch /'grɪntʃ/ *noun*, *pl* **grinch-es** [count] US, informal : an unpleasant person who spoils other people's fun or enjoyment • Only a *grinch* would complain about the movie's silly plot.

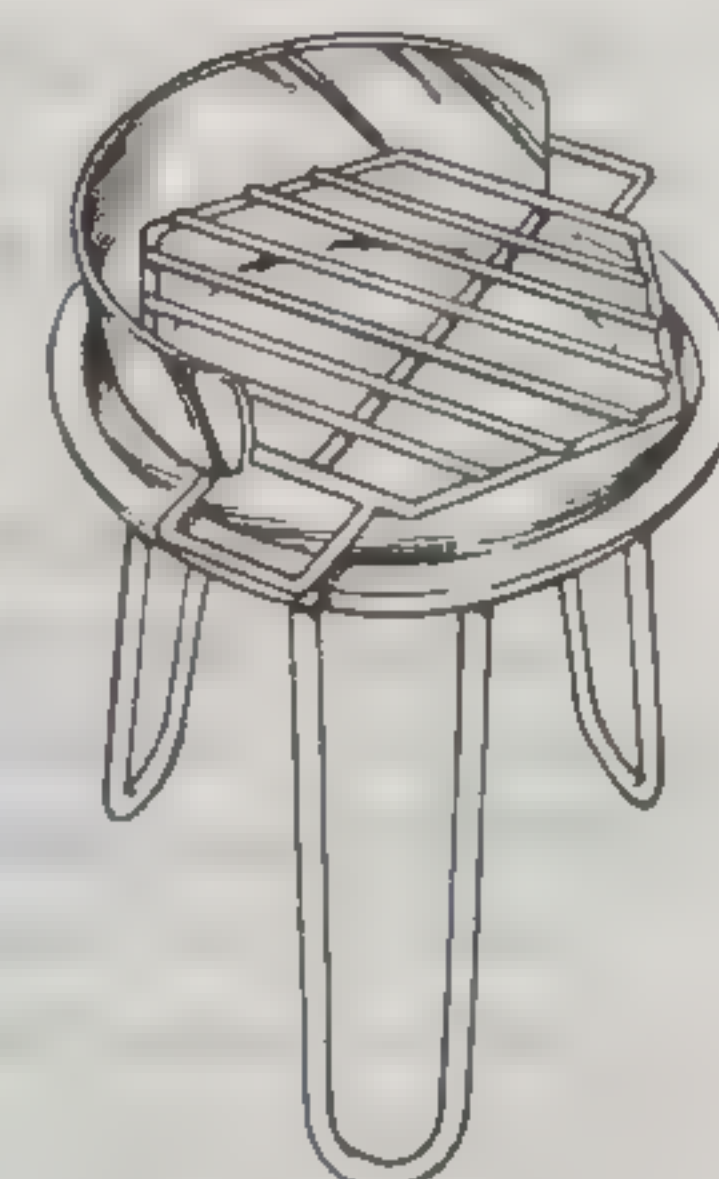
¹**grind** /'graɪnd/ *verb* **grinds; ground** /'graʊnd/; **grind-ing**

1 [+ obj] a : to crush or break (something) into very small pieces by rubbing it against a rough surface or using a special machine • *Grind* (up) the coffee beans into a fine powder. • The corn is *ground* into meal. b : to cut (meat) into small pieces by putting it through a special machine • *Grind* (up) the turkey meat. — usually used in U.S. English in the form *ground* to describe meat that has been cut into very small pieces • a recipe made with *ground* turkey • a pound of *ground* beef [= (US) hamburger, (Brit) mince]

2 : to make (something) sharp or smooth by rubbing it against a hard surface [+ obj] *grind* an ax [no obj] The steel *grinds* to a sharp edge. — see also *ax to grind* at ¹AX

3 a [+ obj] : to cause (things) to rub against each other in a forceful way that produces a harsh noise • She kept *grinding* the car's gears. • He *grinds* his teeth in his sleep. b [no obj] : to make a harsh noise caused by rubbing • I could hear the gears *grinding*.

4 [+ obj] : to rub or press (something) against a hard surface •



grill



She *ground* (out) her cigarette on the pavement. • Dirt was *ground* into the carpet.

grind along [phrasal verb] **1** : to continue in a slow and steady way • The traffic *ground along* through the city streets. • The economy continues to *grind along*. **2** *grind along (something)* : to continue moving down or along (something) in a slow and steady way • The traffic was *grinding along* the streets.

grind away [phrasal verb] **1** : to work or study in a steady, determined way • She was *grinding away* at her studies. **2** *grind away (something) or grind (something) away* : to remove (a part of something) by rubbing something rough against it • He uses a special tool to *grind away* the stone.

grind down [phrasal verb] **1** *grind down (something) or grind (something) down* : to make (something hard) smaller and smoother by gradually rubbing off tiny bits • The old dog's teeth had been *ground down* by use. **2** *grind down (someone or something) or grind (someone or something) down* : to weaken or destroy (someone or something) gradually • Poverty *ground* her spirit *down*. • These people have been *ground down* by years of oppression.

grind on [phrasal verb] : to continue for a long time — used to describe something unpleasant • The war *ground on* for many more months.

grind out [phrasal verb] *grind out (something) or grind (something) out* : to produce (something, especially something of low quality) quickly as part of a continuous process • He *grinds out* [=churns out] a new novel every year.

grind to a halt or come to a grinding halt of a machine : to stop working or moving forward • The machinery slowly *ground to a halt*. — often used figuratively • Without more money, work on the project will soon *grind to a halt*. [=stop] • The project *came to a grinding halt*.

²grind noun, pl grinds

1 [singular] : boring or difficult work • I need a break from the daily *grind*. • the dull *grind* of office work

2 [count] US : a person who works or studies too much • In college he had a reputation as a *grind* [= (Brit) swot] who never went to parties.

3 [count] — used to describe the size of the pieces of something that has been ground • a fine/coarse *grind* of coffee

4 [count] : the act of rotating the hips in a sexual way • dancers doing the bump and *grind* — compare BUMP

grind·er /'graɪndə/ noun, pl -ers [count]

1 : a person or thing that grinds something • a coffee *grinder* — see also ORGAN-GRINDER

2 US : SUBMARINE SANDWICH

grinding *adj*, always used before a noun [more ~; most ~] : very harsh or difficult : continuing without getting any better • *grinding* poverty

grind·stone /'graɪnstəʊn/ noun, pl -stones [count] : a stone disc that can be turned like a wheel and that is used for sharpening tools, smoothing rough edges, etc.

nose to the grindstone ✧ If your nose is to the grindstone, you are doing hard, continuous work. • You'll do well at school if you just *keep your nose to the grindstone*.

grin·go /'grɪŋɡəʊ/ noun, pl -gos [count] informal + offensive : a foreign person in a Latin-American country; especially : an American person

¹grip /'grɪp/ verb grips; gripped; grip·ping [+ obj]

1 : to grab or hold (something) tightly • The little boy *gripped* his mother's hand tightly. • I *gripped* the door handle and pulled as hard as I could.

2 : to get and hold the interest or attention of (someone) • The story really *grips* the reader. • The scandal has *gripped* the nation.

²grip noun, pl grips

1 [count] **a** : the act of grabbing or holding something — often + on • She tightened her *grip on* the handlebars as she coasted down the hill. • I got a good *grip on* the door handle and pulled. • He loosened/relaxed/lost his *grip on* the rope. — see also DEATH GRIP **b** : a way or style of holding something • a loose/tight *grip* • His tennis instructor showed him the proper backhand *grip*. • a golfer with an incorrect *grip*

2 [singular] **a** : power or control • He has the country in his *grip*. [=he controls the country] • He has been doing all he can to maintain/tighten his *grip on* the company's finances. ✧ To be *in the grip of* something unpleasant is to be unable to stop or escape its effect or influence. • The country is *in the grip of* a recession. • We're still *in the grip of* winter. **b** : an understanding of something — often + on • She has a good *grip on* local politics. [=she understands local politics

well] • He can't seem to *get a grip on* [=gain a good understanding of] calculus.

3 [count] : a part for holding something • a knife with a wooden *grip* [=handle] • I need new *grips* for my golf clubs.

come to grips with or Brit get to grips with : to begin to understand or deal with (something, such as a problem) in a direct or effective way • The government needs to *come to grips with* the unemployment problem.

get a grip on yourself or get a grip informal : to get control of your thoughts and emotions and stop behaving in a foolish or uncontrolled way • *Get a grip on yourself!* This is no time to be hysterical!

lose your grip informal : to lose control of your thoughts and emotions : to lose your ability to think or behave in a normal way • I've never seen him so confused and indecisive—he really seems to be *losing his grip*. • The patient seems to be *losing his grip on reality*. [=confusing what is real and what is not real]

gripe /'graɪp/ verb grips; gripped; grip·ing informal : to complain about something [no obj] All of the workers were *gripping* about the new regulations. [+ obj] The students *griped* that they had too much homework.

— **gripe** noun, pl gripes [count] • I'm sick of listening to their *gripes*. [=complaints]

gripping *adj*, always used before a noun [more ~; most ~] : very interesting and exciting • a *gripping* story about a slave's escape to freedom

— **grip·ping·ly** /'grɪpɪŋli/ *adv* • a *grippingly* exciting story

gris·ly /'grɪzli/ *adj* gris·li·er; -est [also more ~; most ~] : causing horror or fear : very shocking • a *grisly* [=gruesome] murder • The jurors saw *grisly* photos of the crime scene.

grist /'grɪst/ noun

grist for your/the mill (US) or Brit grist to your/the mill : something that can be used for a particular purpose • Now that he's a writer, he regards his difficult childhood experiences as *grist for the mill*. [=he regards them as material that he can use as a writer]

gris·tle /'grɪsəl/ noun [noncount] : tough matter in meat that is difficult to eat • a cheap piece of meat, full of *gristle* and fat

— **gris·tly** /'grɪsəli/ *adj* gris·tli·er; -est [also more ~; most ~] • *gristly* meat

¹grit /'grɪt/ noun [noncount]

1 : very small pieces of sand or stone • He shook out his shoes to remove the small rocks and *grit*.

2 informal : mental toughness and courage • Through resourcefulness and *grit*, the pioneers survived the winter.

²grit verb grits; grit·ted; grit·ting

grit your teeth **1** : to press or rub your teeth together • He *gritted* his teeth in anger/pain. **2** : to show courage and determination when you are dealing with problems or challenges • Starting your own business can be very tough, but you just have to *grit your teeth* and keep working at it.

grits /'grɪts/ noun [plural] : a type of ground corn that is eaten especially in the southern U.S. • We had sausage and *grits* for breakfast.

grit·ty /'grɪti/ *adj* grit·ti·er; -est [also more ~; most ~]

1 : containing very small pieces of sand or stone : containing grit • *gritty* vegetables

2 informal : having or showing a lot of courage and determination • the story's *gritty* heroine • I admire her *gritty* determination to succeed.

3 : harsh and unpleasant • The book describes the *gritty* realities of life on the streets. • He gave us all of the *gritty* details of his divorce.

— see also NITTY-GRITTY

griz·zle /'grɪzəl/ verb griz·zles; griz·zled; griz·zling Brit, informal

1 [no obj] : to make a continuous, quiet, crying sound : WHIMPER • a *grizzling* baby

2 : to complain in a weak or annoying way [no obj] He is always *grizzling* about the weather. [+ obj] He always *grizzles* that the weather is bad.

grizzled *adj* : having gray hair • He had thinning hair and a *grizzled* beard. • a *grizzled* war veteran

griz·zly /'grɪzli/ noun, pl -zlies [count] : GRIZZLY BEAR

grizzly bear noun, pl ~ bears [count] : a very large and powerful bear of western North America — see picture at BEAR

groan /'ɡroʊn/ verb groans; groaned; groan·ing

1 **a** [no obj] : to make a deep sound because of pain or some strong emotion (such as grief or disappointment) • The wounded man *groaned* in/with pain. • She *groaned* when she

saw the bill. • She *groaned* silently/inwardly when she saw the bill. [=she was upset when she saw the bill but she did not actually groan] **b** [+ *obj*] : to say (something that expresses annoyance or unhappiness) • “Oh, no,” she *groaned*, “I’m going to have to start all over.” • She *groaned* that she would have to start all over.

2 [*no obj*] : to complain about something • Merchants are *groaning* over slow holiday sales. • He’s always *moaning and groaning* about his salary.

3 [*no obj*] : to make a deep sound caused especially by weight or pressure • The chair *groaned* under his weight. • *groaning* bookshelves = bookshelves *groaning* with (the weight of their) books [=bookshelves filled with books]

– **groan** *noun*, *pl* **groans** [*count*] • She let out a *groan* when she saw the bill. • We could hear the *groans* of the wounded man. • a *groan* of despair

gro·cer /'grouɜ:/ *noun*, *pl* **-cers** [*count*] : a person who sells food and other supplies for people’s houses • Ask your local *grocer* if he sells organic fruits and vegetables. • I bought the fruit and vegetables at the *grocer’s*. [=grocery store]

gro·cery /'grouɜri/ *noun*, *pl* **-cer·ies**

1 [*count*] chiefly US : GROCERY STORE

2 *groceries* [*plural*] : food sold by a grocer : food bought at a store • She stopped to pick up some *groceries* for supper.

– **grocery** *adj*, always used before a noun • *grocery* bags/shopping • a *grocery* cart/clerk

grocery store *noun*, *pl* ~ **stores** [*count*] chiefly US : a store that sells food and household supplies : SUPERMARKET

— called also *grocery*

grog /'grɑ:g/ *noun* [*noncount*]

1 : an alcoholic drink containing liquor (such as rum) mixed with water

2 chiefly Australia and New Zealand, informal : any alcoholic drink (such as beer)

grog·gy /'grɑ:gi/ *adj* **grog·gi·er**; **-est** [*also more* ~; *most* ~] : not able to think or move normally because of being tired, sick, etc. • I’m still a little *groggy* from my nap. • The medicine sometimes makes patients *groggy*.

– **grog·gi·ly** /'grɑ:gəli/ *adv* • He got out of bed and staggered *groggily* to the bathroom. – **grog·gi·ness** /'grɑ:ginəs/ *noun* [*noncount*] • Patients may experience some *grogginess* after taking the medicine.

groin /'groin/ *noun*, *pl* **groins** [*count*] : the area of the body where your legs come together — see picture at HUMAN

grom·met /'grɑ:mət/ *noun*, *pl* **-mets** [*count*] : a metal or plastic ring that is used to strengthen a small hole in a piece of cloth or leather : EYELET

1 **groom** /'gru:m/ *noun*, *pl* **grooms** [*count*]

1 : a man who has just married or is about to be married — called also *bridegroom*; compare BRIDE

2 : a person who takes care of horses

2 **groom** *verb* **grooms**; **groomed**; **groom·ing** [+ *obj*]

1 : to clean and care for (an animal) • The horses are being *groomed* for the competition. • The cat was *grooming* itself in the corner. [=the cat was cleaning itself by licking its fur]

2 a : to make (someone) neat and attractive • She spent



grooming



hours *grooming* herself. • She always seems to be perfectly *groomed* and neatly dressed. **b** : to make (something) neat, smooth, or attractive • a carefully *groomed* lawn • perfectly *groomed* ski slopes — see also WELL-GROOMED

3 : to prepare (someone) for a particular job or position • He is being *groomed* to take over the company.

— **grooming** *noun* [noncount] • Horses need a lot of *grooming*. • She spends an hour each morning on personal *grooming*. [=care of her hair, skin, nails, etc.] — see picture on previous page

groom·er /'gru:mə/ *noun*, *pl* -ers [count] : a person who cleans and cares for an animal • a dog *groomer*

grooms·man /'gru:mzmən/ *noun*, *pl* -men /-mən/ [count] chiefly US : a male friend or relative who helps a groom at his wedding • He asked his two closest college friends to be his *groomsmen*. — compare BEST MAN, BRIDESMAID, MAID OF HONOR, MATRON OF HONOR

¹groove /'gru:v/ *noun*, *pl* grooves

1 [count] : a long, narrow cut or low area in a surface • the grooves on a vinyl record • The door slides along a *groove* in the doorframe.

2 [singular] *informal* **a** US : a state in which you are able to do something well and easily especially because you are doing it often • It's not hard to do a little studying each day once you get into a/the *groove*. [=routine] • He's a great pitcher when he's in a/the *groove*. • She hasn't yet found her *groove*. **b** chiefly Brit : a dull routine that does not change : RUT • They've gotten *stuck in a groove* in their jobs.

3 [count] *informal* : an enjoyable pattern of sound in music • dance *grooves*

— **grooved** /'gru:vd/ *adj* • a *grooved* surface

²groove *verb* grooves; grooved; grooving [no obj] *informal* + old-fashioned : to enjoy listening to or dancing to music • We *grooved* to the beat.

groovy /'gru:vi/ *adj* groov-i-er; -est *informal* + old-fashioned : very good and enjoyable : EXCELLENT • *groovy* music ♦ *Groovy* is usually associated with the language of the 1960s.

grope /'group/ *verb* gropes; groped; groping

1 [no obj] : to search for something by reaching or touching usually with your fingers in an awkward way • I *groped* for the light switch. • She *groped* around in her purse, looking for her comb. — often used figuratively • He was *groping* for a tactful way to break the news.

2 : to move forward carefully by putting your hands in front of you so that you can feel anything that blocks you [no obj] We *groped* along the dark passage. [+ obj] We *groped our way* [=felt our way] along the dark passage.

3 [+ obj] : to touch (someone) in an unwanted and unexpected sexual way • She claims that her boss tried to *grope* her.

¹gross /'grou/ *adj* gross-er; -est [also more ~; most ~]

1 always used before a noun : very obvious or noticeable • There is a *gross* [=glaring] error in the text. • They have suffered a *gross* injustice. • That's a *gross* exaggeration.

2 a : rude or offensive • *gross* [=vulgar, coarse] language **b** *informal* : very disgusting • That soup looks *gross*. • She has a *gross* habit of chewing on the ends of her hair.

3 always used before a noun : including everything • What was the *gross* [=total] weight of the shipment? — used especially to describe a total amount of money that exists before anything (such as taxes or expenses) is taken away • the company's *gross* annual profits • Their *gross* earnings were \$50,000. — compare ³NET

4 : very big or fat • a *gross* man with an enormous belly — **gross·ly** *adv* • His story was *grossly* inaccurate. • She is *grossly* overweight. — **gross·ness** *noun* [noncount] • the *grossness* of his language

²gross *adv* — used to describe a total amount of money that exists before anything (such as taxes or expenses) is taken away • They earned \$50,000, *gross*.

³gross *verb* gross-es; grossed; grossing

gross out [phrasal verb] *gross* (someone) out also *gross out* (someone) chiefly US, *informal* : to cause (someone) to feel disgusted • He's always *grossing me out* by playing with his food. • I was really *grossed out* by all the blood and guts in the movie. — see also GROSS-OUT

— compare ⁴GROSS

⁴gross *verb* grosses; grossed; grossing [+ obj] : to earn (an amount of money) before taxes, expenses, etc., are taken away • They *grossed* \$50,000 before taxes. — compare ⁴NET — compare ³GROSS

⁵gross *noun*, *pl* gross-es [count] : the amount of money

earned before taxes, expenses, etc., are taken away • They give five percent of their *gross* to charity every year. — compare ⁵NET — compare ⁶GROSS

⁶gross *noun*, *pl* gross [count] : a group of 144 things : 12 dozen • a *gross* of pencils • selling pencils by the *gross* — compare ⁵GROSS

gross domestic product *noun*, *pl* ~ -ucts [count, non-count] : the total value of the goods and services produced by the people of a nation during a year not including the value of income earned in foreign countries — abbr. GDP

gross national product *noun*, *pl* ~ -ucts [count, non-count] : the total value of the goods and services produced by the people of a nation during a year — abbr. GNP

gross-out /'grou,aut/ *noun*, *pl* -outs [count] chiefly US, *informal* : something that is very disgusting : something that grosses you out • The last scene in the movie is a real *gross-out*. • *gross-out* humor

gro·tesque /grou'tesk/ *adj* [more ~; most ~]

1 : very strange or ugly in a way that is not normal or natural • animals with *grotesque* deformities • a *grotesque* villain • The actors wore dark capes and *grotesque* masks.

2 : extremely different from what is expected or usual • a *grotesque* distortion of the facts

— **gro·tesque·ly** *adv* • *grotesquely* deformed — **gro·tesque·ness** *noun* [noncount]

grot·to /'gra:to/ *noun*, *pl* -toes also -tos [count] : a small cave

grot·ty /'gra:ti/ *adj* grot-ti-er; -est *Brit, informal* : of poor quality : very dirty or unpleasant • I lived in a *grotty* flat.

¹grouch /'grauʃ/ *noun*, *pl* grouch-es [count] : a person who complains frequently or constantly • He is a *grouch*.

²grouch *verb* grouches; grouched; grouching *informal* : to complain in an annoyed way [no obj] He's always *grouching* about work. [+ obj] He's always *grouching* that he has to work.

grouchy /'grauʃi/ *adj* grouch-i-er; -est somewhat *informal* : tending to complain about things : having a bad temper • a *grouchy* old man • I get *grouchy* when I'm tired.

— **grouch·i·ly** /'grauʃəli/ *adv* — **grouch·i·ness** /'grauʃinə/ *noun* [noncount]

¹ground /'graund/ *noun*, *pl* grounds

1 *the ground* : the surface of the earth • An apple fell to *the ground*. • Mechanical problems kept the plane on *the ground*. • They were lying/sitting on *the ground*. • close to *the ground* = low to *the ground* • The flight was watched by many observers on *the ground*. • They sent in *ground forces/troops*. [=soldiers who fight on the ground instead of in the air or at sea] • a *ground war* [=a war fought by soldiers on the ground] • *ground transportation* [=transportation that is over the ground instead of on water or in the air]

2 [noncount] : the soil that is on or under the surface of the earth • planting seeds in the *ground* • She drove a spike into the *ground*. • damp/frozen *ground* • solid/firm/dry *ground*

3 a [noncount] : an area of land • They built their house on bare/level/flat *ground*. • We realized that we were on hal-lowed/sacred *ground*. • They built their house on high *ground*. **b** [count] : an area of land or sea that is used for a particular purpose • a camping *ground* • fishing/hunting grounds • Each fall the birds return to their wintering grounds. • (Brit) a football *ground* [= (US) a soccer field] • an ancient *burial ground* [=a place where people were buried in ancient times] — see also SPAWNING GROUND **c** *grounds* [plural] : the land around a building • the capitol grounds • He was trespassing on school grounds. • We toured the grounds of the estate.

4 [noncount] : the bottom of the ocean, a lake, etc. • The boat struck *ground*.

5 [noncount] : an area of knowledge or interest • We have a lot of *ground* to go over before the test. • We covered much more *ground* [=we went over more information] than we expected to at the meeting. • The book covers *familiar ground*. [=subjects that have often been discussed before]

6 [singular] : a place or situation in which someone or something is developed or tested • The laboratory has become a *testing ground* for ideas about the origins of the universe. • The tournament has come to be regarded as a *proving ground* for young players.

7 : a set of beliefs, opinions, or attitudes [noncount] The two sides are trying to find some *common ground* [=an area in which they can agree with each other] on these issues. • When a politician talks about raising taxes, he's on *dangerous ground*. [=he is doing or saying something that may

cause anger or criticism] [*singular*] The two sides continue to look for a *middle ground* [=a middle position] between two extremes. — see also HIGH GROUND

8 [*count*] : a reason for doing or thinking something — usually plural • The company has been accused of discriminating on the *grounds* of race. • We have no *grounds* for believing that the crisis will end soon. • Her husband's infidelity was *grounds* for divorce. • Many critics have objected to the proposal *on the grounds that* [=because] it would be too costly. • The law was rejected *on the grounds that* it was not constitutional. = The law was rejected on constitutional *grounds*.

9 *grounds* [*plural*] : very small pieces of crushed coffee beans • coffee *grounds*

10 [*count*] *US* : a wire or metal object that makes an electrical connection with the earth — usually singular • This metal bracket provides the *ground*. — called also (*Brit*) *earth*

11 [*count*] : the area behind or around a design • The wallpaper has red tulips on a white *ground*. [=background]

above ground : on top of the earth's surface • The bird's nest is located high *above ground*.

below ground : under the earth's surface • The seeds should be planted a few inches *below ground*.

break ground **1** : to dig into the ground at the start of building something • Workers *broke ground* on the new stadium last week. **2** or *break new ground* : to make new discoveries • Critics say that the study does not *break* (any) *new ground* in the search for a cure for cancer.

burn to the ground see ¹BURN

down to the ground *Brit, informal* : completely or perfectly • The job *suits her down to the ground*. [=suits her perfectly]

from the ground up **1** : completely or thoroughly • The car has been redesigned *from the ground up*. **2** : from a point at which nothing has been done : from the very beginning • They built the resort *from the ground up*.

gain ground or make up ground : to move faster so that you come closer to someone or something that is in front of you • She was trailing in the race, but she was beginning to *gain ground* (on the leaders). — often used figuratively • Alternative forms of energy are quickly *gaining ground*. [=becoming more popular or successful] • The company has been *gaining ground on* [=catching up with] its competitors. • The campaign is trying to *make up ground* by advertising heavily in key states.

get off the ground **1** : to begin to operate or proceed in a successful way • The project never really *got off the ground*. **2** *get (something) off the ground* : to cause (something) to begin to operate or proceed in successful way • We're still trying to *get this project off the ground*.

give ground : to move backward when you are being attacked : RETREAT • The troops were forced to *give ground*. — often used figuratively • The controversy has continued, and both sides are still refusing to *give ground*.

have/keep your feet on the ground see ¹FOOT

hit the ground running see ¹HIT

hold/stand your ground : to not change your position when you are being attacked : to not retreat • The troops managed to *hold their ground* despite a fierce enemy attack. — often used figuratively • The company has managed to *hold its ground* in the marketplace. • The president has continued to *stand his ground* despite criticism.

into the ground **1** : to the point of being very tired or exhausted • She's been working/running/driving herself *into the ground*. **2** : to the point of complete failure or ruin • He ran that company *into the ground*. [=he destroyed that company] • She drove that old car *into the ground*. [=she drove it until it would not run anymore]

lose ground : to move slower so that you are farther away from someone or something that is in front of you • She was beginning to *lose ground* (to the leaders) in the race. — often used figuratively • The political party *lost ground* [=became less popular or successful; did not do well] in the election. • The company is *losing ground to* [=falling behind; not doing as well as] its competitors.

²*ground* verb *grounds*; *ground-ed*; *ground-ing*

1 [+ *obj*] : to provide a basis or reason for (something) — usually used as (*be*) *grounded* • She discussed the principles on which her philosophy *is grounded*. [=based, founded] • It turned out that our fears *were well grounded*. [=there was a good reason for our fears] — often + *in* • These practices *are solidly grounded* [=based] *in* tradition. • a theory *grounded* [=based] *in* fact

2 : to cause a ship or boat to hit the ground below the water so that it cannot move [+ *obj*] They *grounded* the ship on a sandbar. • a *grounded* ship [*no obj*] The ship *grounded* on a sandbar. [(more commonly) the ship ran aground on a sandbar]

3 [+ *obj*] : to prevent (an aircraft or a pilot) from flying • The plane was *grounded* by mechanical problems. • Bad weather *grounded* his flight. • a pilot *grounded* by health problems

4 [+ *obj*] : to stop (a child) from leaving the house to spend time with friends as a form of punishment • Her parents threatened to *ground* her for a week. [=her parents threatened to keep her from going out with her friends for a week] • Sorry, I can't go out, I'm *grounded*.

5 [+ *obj*] *US* : to connect (a wire, a device, etc.) electrically to the ground for safety • The wire was not properly *grounded*. [=(*Brit*) *earthed*]

6 [*no obj*] *baseball* : to hit a ground ball • He *grounded* to the shortstop. • He *grounded out* [=made an out by hitting a ground ball] to the shortstop.

7 [+ *obj*] *American football* : to throw (a football) to the ground in order to avoid being tackled • The quarterback was penalized for intentionally *grounding* the ball.

ground in [*phrasal verb*] *ground (someone) in (something)* : to give (someone) basic knowledge about (something) • The study helped to *ground* them *in* the methods of research. — often used as (*be*) *grounded in* • She *is well/solidly grounded in* mathematics. [=she has a good basic knowledge of mathematics]

³*ground* past tense and past participle of ¹GRIND

ground ball noun, *pl* ~ *balls* [*count*] *baseball* : a ball that is hit by the batter and that rolls or bounces along the ground • He hit a *ground ball* to the shortstop. — called also *grounder*; compare FLY BALL

ground-break-ing /'graund,breɪkɪŋ/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : introducing new ideas or methods • She was honored for her *groundbreaking* work in nuclear physics. • a *ground-breaking* new book

ground cloth noun, *pl* ~ *cloths* [*count*] *US* : a piece of waterproof material that is used under tents, sleeping bags, etc., by people who are sleeping outdoors — called also (*Brit*) *ground sheet*

ground cover noun, *pl* ~ *covers* [*count, noncount*] : a low plant or group of plants used in a garden to cover the ground • Ivy is often used as (a) *ground cover*.

ground crew noun, *pl* ~ *crews* [*count*] : a group of people at an airport who take care of and repair aircraft — called also (*Brit*) *ground staff*

ground-ed /'graundəd/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] — used to describe a person who is sensible and has a good understanding of what is really important in life • He's trying to stay *ground-ed* despite all the fame and praise. • She comes from a very *grounded* family.

ground-er /'graundə/ noun, *pl* -ers [*count*] *baseball* : GROUND BALL • He hit a *grounder* to the shortstop.

ground floor noun, *pl* ~ *floors* [*count*] : the floor of a building that is at ground level — called also (*US*) *first floor* *in on the ground floor* ♦ If you *are/get in on the ground floor* of something (such as a new business or project), you become involved in it at the very beginning. • He was able to *get in on the ground floor* of the computer industry.

ground-hog /'graund,hɑ:g/ noun, *pl* -hogs [*count*] : WOODCHUCK

Groundhog Day noun [*singular*] : February 2 observed in the U.S. as a day that indicates whether winter will end soon ♦ Tradition says that if a groundhog sees its shadow because the sun is shining on February 2, the winter will last six more weeks, and if it does not see its shadow because of cloudy weather, the winter will end soon.

ground-ing /'graundɪŋ/ noun [*singular*] : training or instruction that gives someone basic knowledge of a particular subject • It is clear he has a solid *grounding* in the issues. [=that he knows about and understands the issues] • The job requires a thorough *grounding* in the history of the region. • classes that give students a good moral *grounding*

ground-less /'graundləs/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : not based on facts • The charges against him were (completely) *ground-less*. • Doubts about how the new system would work proved (to be) *groundless*. • *groundless* fears

— *ground-less-ly* *adv* — *ground-less-ness* noun [*non-count*] • the *groundlessness* of their fears

ground-level *adj*, always used before a noun : occurring or

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lying at or near the ground • *ground-level* winds/temperatures • a *ground-level* window

— **ground level** *noun* [singular] • a window located at *ground level*

ground-nut /'graʊnd,nʌt/ *noun*, *pl* -nuts [count] chiefly Brit : PEANUT 1

ground plan *noun*, *pl* ~ plans [count] : FLOOR PLAN

ground rule *noun*, *pl* ~ rules [count]

1 : a basic rule about what should be done in a particular situation, event, etc. — usually plural • We need to lay out the *ground rules* for tonight's meeting.

2 chiefly US, sports : a special rule about how a game is played on a particular field, court, or course — usually plural • The coaches and umpires discussed the *ground rules*.

ground sheet *noun*, *pl* ~ sheets [count] Brit : GROUND CLOTH

grounds-keep-er /'graʊndz,ki:pə/ *noun*, *pl* -ers [count] US : a person who takes care of a large area of land (such as a sports field or a park) — called also (chiefly Brit) *groundsman*

grounds-man /'graʊndzmən/ *noun*, *pl* -men /-mən/ [count] chiefly Brit : GROUNDKEEPER

ground staff *noun*, *pl* ~ staffs [count] Brit

1 : the people who take care of a large area of land (such as a sports field) — usually singular

2 : GROUND CREW

ground stroke *noun*, *pl* ~ strokes [count] tennis : a stroke made by hitting a ball that has bounced off the ground — compare VOLLEY

ground-swell /'graʊnd,swel/ *noun*, *pl* -swells [count] : a fast increase in the amount of public support for something (such as a political cause or candidate) — usually + *of* • They hope to create a *groundswell* of support for her candidacy. • a *groundswell* of enthusiasm

ground-water /'graʊnd,wɑ:tə/ *noun* [noncount] : water that is underground • There were concerns about contaminated *groundwater*.

ground-work /'graʊnd,wɜ:k/ *noun* [noncount] : something that is done at an early stage and that makes later work or progress possible — often used with *lay* or *do* • His discoveries *laid* the *groundwork* [=foundation] for further research. • He *did* the *groundwork* for further research.

ground zero *noun* [noncount]

1 : the point on the earth's surface directly above, below, or at which an explosion (especially a nuclear explosion) occurs

2 : the central point in an area of fast change or intense activity • *ground zero* in the battle over immigration laws

3 : the beginning state or starting point • We're going to have to go right back to *ground zero* [=square one] and start all over again.

¹**group** /'gru:p/ *noun*, *pl* groups [count]

1 **a** : a number of people or things that are together or in the same place • It'll be easier if we go there as a *group*. • She presented the idea to the *group*. • We like to let these students work *in groups* whenever possible. — often + *of* • A large *group of* people were waiting for him at the airport. • a *group of* tourists • a small *group of* islands ✧ In British English *group* is used with both singular and plural verbs. • A large *group* was/were waiting for him. **b** : a number of people who are connected by some shared activity, interest, or quality • She belongs to an environmental/youth *group*. • ethnic/religious *groups* • She joined a discussion *group*. • A select *group* of scientists has been invited to the conference. • The disease was seen in all *age groups*. [=groups made up of people who are the same age] • a *group discussion* [=a discussion involving a group of people] — see also FOCUS GROUP, INTEREST GROUP, NEWSGROUP, PRESSURE GROUP, SUPPORT GROUP **c** : a number of things that are related in some way • the four food *groups* • a *group of* languages

2 : a number of musicians who play together regularly • a rock/musical *group* [=band]

²**group** *verb* groups; grouped; group-ing

1 [+ *obj*] : to put (people or things) in a group — often + *together* • She *grouped* the toys *together* by type. — often used as (be) *grouped* • English and Dutch can *be grouped together* as Germanic languages. • The children *were grouped* by age.

2 [no *obj*] : to form a group — often + *around* or *together* • The students *grouped around* the table. • The children *grouped together* near their teachers.

grou-per /'gru:pə/ *noun*, *pl* grou-pers also grouper [count] : a large fish that lives at the bottom of warm seas

group home *noun*, *pl* ~ homes [count] US : a place where people who need special care or attention live together in a group • a *group home* for young adults with disabilities

group-ie /'gru:pi/ *noun*, *pl* -ies [count] informal

1 **a** : a fan of a music group who follows the group on concert tours **b** : a fan of an athlete or celebrity who tries to see the athlete or celebrity as often as possible

2 : an enthusiastic supporter or follower of something • a science-fiction *groupie* • a political *groupie*

group-ing /'gru:pm/ *noun*, *pl* -ings

1 [count] : a set of people or things combined in a group They arranged the furniture in a *grouping* around the fireplace. — often + *of* • The garden has several large *groupings of* carefully selected plants. • a *grouping of* stars/islands

2 [noncount] : the act or process of combining people or things into groups • the *grouping* of English with other Germanic languages

group practice *noun*, *pl* ~ -tices [count, noncount] : a group of doctors, dentists, etc., who all work in the same building and share office costs • He is in (a) *group practice* with three other doctors.

group therapy *noun* [noncount] : a method for helping people with mental or emotional problems by having them discuss their problems together in a group

¹**grouse** /'graus/ *noun*, *pl* grouse [count] : a small bird that is often hunted

²**grouse** *verb* grouses; groused; grouse-ing informal : to complain about something [no *obj*] She's been *grouse-ing* to her boss about the working conditions. [+ *obj*] Fans have *groused* that the higher prices are unfair.

— grouse-er *noun*, *pl* -ers [count]

¹**grout** /'graʊt/ *noun* [noncount] technical : material used for filling spaces or cracks between tiles

²**grout** *verb* grouts; grout-ed; grout-ing [+ *obj*] technical : to fill the cracks in (something) with grout • I need to *grout* the bathroom tiles.

grove /'grouv/ *noun*, *pl* groves [count] : a small group of trees • a *grove of* oaks, especially : a group of trees that produce fruit or nuts • an orange *grove* • a pecan *grove* — sometimes used in street names • Evans *Grove* • Oak *Grove*

grovel /'grɑ:vəl, 'grʌvəl/ *verb* grovels; US grovel-ed or Brit grovel-elled; US grovel-ing or Brit grovel-ling [no *obj*]

1 : to kneel, lie, or crawl on the ground • The peasants *grovel-ed* before the king.

2 : to treat someone with too much respect or fear in a way that shows weakness in order to be forgiven or to gain approval or favor • He had to *grovel* to get her to accept his apology. • He made a *groveling* apology to his girlfriend.

— grovel-er (US) or Brit grovel-ler *noun*, *pl* -ers [count]

grow /'gru:/ *verb* grows; grew /'gru:/; grown /'groun/; grow-ing

1 [no *obj*] : to become larger : to increase in size, amount, etc. • The city is *growing* rapidly/dramatically. • The list of chores to do this weekend keeps *growing*. — often + *in* • The sport is *growing in* popularity. [=is becoming more popular] • The school has *grown* (considerably/greatly) *in* size. • His followers continue to *grow in* number. [=to become more numerous]

2 [no *obj*] : to become better or improved in some way : to become more developed, mature, etc. • She *grew* intellectually and emotionally in her first year at college. • It's wonderful to see how she has *grown* as a person since going to college.

3 [no *obj*] : to become larger and change from being a child to being an adult as time passes : to pass from childhood to adulthood • It can be hard to watch our children change as they *grow*. • He's still just a *growing* boy. • She's *grown* (by) at least an inch since the last time I saw her.

4 **a** [no *obj*] *of a plant* : to exist and develop • These trees *grow* only in the jungle. • As the tree *grew* taller, the branches began to touch the house. • This plant does well in difficult *growing* conditions. [=conditions in which it is difficult for most plants to grow] • The flowers *grow wild* [=grow naturally without being planted or cared for by humans] along the highway. **b** [+ *obj*] : to cause (a plant) to grow : to cultivate or raise (a plant) • She *grows* tomatoes in her garden. • The plant is *grown* for its colorful flowers.

5 *of hair, fingernails, etc.* : to become longer [no *obj*] She's letting her hair *grow* a little. • His fingernails *grow* quickly. [+ *obj*] She's *growing* her hair long. • He tried to *grow* a beard/mustache. [=to have a beard/mustache by letting the hair on his face grow] — see also GROW OUT 1 (below)

6 a *always followed by an adjective [linking verb]* : BECOME • He suddenly *grew* pale. • He had *grown* tired of hearing about their problems. • She *grew* fat due to her lack of exercise. • He's worried about *growing* old. • These diseases are *growing* more common. • We have *grown* accustomed to his angry outbursts. **b** [*no obj*] : to have or form an opinion, attitude, etc., after time passes — followed by *to* + *verb* • She's *grown* to like her new job. • I *grew* to admire her very much. • I *grew* to feel that these problems were not important. • She *grew* to hate him for his selfishness.

7 [*+ obj*] : to cause (something, such as a business) to develop or get bigger • These changes should allow us to *grow* the company while reducing waste. • He claims that his proposals will help *grow* the economy.

grow apart [*phrasal verb*] : to become less friendly or emotionally close as time passes : to become distant from someone • My wife and I have *grown apart* over the years.

grow from [*phrasal verb*] **grow from (something)** : to come from or originate from (something) • The company *grew from* an idea he had in college.

grow into [*phrasal verb*] **grow into (something)** **1** : to become (something) as time passes • She has *grown into* an accomplished and charming young woman. • His small company has *grown into* a huge international corporation. **2** : to become large enough for (a certain size of clothing) • Ben will *grow into* Billy's shoes in a year or two.

grow on [*phrasal verb*] **grow on (someone)** : to become more appealing to (someone) as time passes • Try the dish again—it *grows on* you. • I didn't like him at first, but he's starting to *grow on* me.

grow on trees [*informal*] : to exist in large amounts : to be easy to get • Good jobs don't *grow on trees*. [=good jobs are hard to get] • He acts as if money *grows on trees*.

grow out [*phrasal verb*] **1 grow (something) out or grow out (something)** : to allow (something) to get longer • She's *growing out* her hair. — see also GROW 5 (above) **2 grow out of (something)** **a** : to develop or come from (a source) • The project *grew out of* a simple suggestion. • This new theory *grew out of* their earlier research. **b** : to become too large for (a certain size of clothing) • He quickly *grew out of* his clothes. — see also OUTGROW **c** : to stop doing or having (something) because you are older and more mature • She hoped to *grow out of* her bad habits. • He's wild now, but he'll *grow out of* it.

grow up [*phrasal verb*] **1 a** : to become an adult • She wants to be a firefighter when she *grows up*. — used to describe where you lived, what you did, etc., when you were a child • I *grew up* in the city. • We *grew up* poor, but we always had food on the table. • He *grew up* playing music. [=he played music when he was a child] **b** : to stop thinking and behaving in a childish way • It's time for him to *grow up* and start accepting his responsibilities. • Oh, *grow up*! — see also GROWN-UP **2** : to begin to exist and develop as time passes • A number of villages and cities *grew up* along the river. • A rivalry *grew up* between the villages.

— **grow-er** /'growə/ *noun, pl -ers* [*count*] • corn/fruit *grow-ers* • This plant is known as a fast *grower*. — **growing** *adj, always used before a noun* • There is *growing* acceptance of the new plan. • the *growing* popularity of this film • There's a *growing* sense that he may be right.

growing pains *noun* [*plural*] **1** : pains in the legs of children who are growing **2** : the problems that are experienced as something (such as a business or a project) grows larger or more successful • a young company/city dealing with *growing pains*

growing season *noun, pl ~ -sons* [*count*] : the period of the year that is warm enough for plants to grow

growl /'grəʊl/ *verb* **growls; growled; growl-ing** **1** [*no obj*] **a** of an animal : to make a deep threatening sound • I could hear a dog *growling* behind me. • a *growling* dog — often + *at* • The dog *growled at* me. **b** : to make a low sound like the sound of a growling animal • My stomach's been *growling* all morning. • The engine *growled*.

2 a [*+ obj*] : to say (something) in an angry way • "What do you want?" he *growled*. **b** [*no obj*] : to complain in an angry way • He's always *growling* about the government.

2 growl *noun, pl growls* [*count*] : a deep sound made by an animal • The dog gave a menacing *growl*; also : a similar sound • He answered my question with a *growl*. • We could hear a *growl* of thunder in the distance.

— **growly** /'grəʊli/ *adj* **grow-li-er; -est** • a *growly* voice

1 grown *past participle of GROW*

2 grown /'grəʊn/ *adj, always used before a noun* : no longer a child : ADULT • It's a job that requires a *grown* man. • She has two *grown* children [=two children who are now adults] from a previous marriage. — see also FULL-GROWN

1 grown-up /'grəʊn,ʌp/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] **1** : no longer young : fully grown • Their children are all *grown-up* now. [=are adults now] **2 somewhat informal a** : suitable for adults • a *grown-up* movie/party • This book is a little too *grown-up* for him. • a young girl with *grown-up* tastes **b** : like an adult • How *grown-up* you look! • They're *grown-up* [=mature] enough to deal with the situation.

2 grown-up *noun, pl -ups* [*count*] *somewhat informal* : a person who is fully grown : ADULT • Her books appeal to both children and *grown-ups*.

growth /'grəʊθ/ *noun, pl growths* **1** [*noncount*] : the process of growing; such as **a** : natural increase in size • He had a *growth* spurt when he was 16 years old. • She's concerned that the medication might slow/stunt her child's *growth*. — often + *of* • the *growth of* facial hair • the *growth of* a crystal **b** : the process of forming or developing something • He discovered a substance that promotes the *growth* of new blood vessels. **c** : an increase in the number, amount, or size of something • The city has undergone explosive *growth* in recent years. • rapid *growth* • slow/steady *growth* • the *growth* of civilization • population/economic *growth* • Children's books are a *growth area* [=an area of business that is becoming larger and more successful] in the publishing industry. • Children's publishing is a *growth industry*. [=a business that is becoming larger and more successful] • The company has limited *growth potential*. [=the company is not likely to grow much larger] **d** : the development of a person's mind, emotions, etc. • He sees his college years as an opportunity for personal *growth*. • emotional/intellectual *growth*

2 : a result or product of growing [*noncount*] It's important to prune the bush every year to encourage new *growth*. • Their profits have averaged five percent *growth* in the last four years. [*singular*] The tree has an average annual *growth* of almost a foot. • a thick *growth* of underbrush

3 [*count*] *medical* : an abnormal mass of tissue (such as a tumor) • a cancerous *growth*

1 grub /'grʌb/ *noun, pl grubs* **1** [*count*] : the young form of an insect in which it looks like a small worm **2** [*noncount*] *informal* : FOOD 1 • Let's go get some *grub*.

2 grub *verb* **grubs; grubbed; grub-bing** [*no obj*] **1** : to dig in the ground for something that is difficult to find or remove • animals *grubbing* for roots **2 informal** : to search for something : to try hard to get or find something • Everyone was *grubbing* for whatever food they could find. • students *grubbing* for better grades — see also MONEY-GRUBBER, MONEY-GRUBBING

grub-by /'grʌbi/ *adj* **grub-bi-er; -est** *informal* : dirty or messy • He lives in a *grubby* little apartment. • *grubby* clothes • Keep your *grubby* hands off me! [=do not touch me]

— **grub-bi-ness** /'grʌbiːnəs/ *noun* [*noncount*] • the *grubbiness* of his clothes

1 grudge /'grʌdʒ/ *noun, pl grudges* [*count*] : a strong feeling of anger toward someone that lasts for a long time • She still has/holds/bears a *grudge* against him for the way he treated her in school. • He has nursed/harbored a *grudge* against his former boss for years. • I don't bear him any *grudges*.

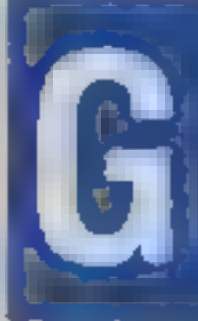
grudge match : a contest or fight between players, teams, etc., who dislike each other • The race had turned into a *grudge match* between the two teams.

2 grudge *verb* **grudges; grudged; grudg-ing** [*+ obj*] **1** : to give, do, or allow (something) in a reluctant or unwilling way : BEGRUDGE • I don't *grudge* paying my share. **2** : to dislike or feel angry toward (someone) for something • I don't *grudge* her the opportunities she has been given.

grudg-ing /'grʌdʒɪŋ/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] : said, done, or given in an unwilling or doubtful way • Her theories have begun to win *grudging* acceptance in the scientific community. • He has earned the *grudging* admiration/respect of his rivals. — **grudg-ing-ly** *adv* • Her theories have been *grudgingly* accepted. • They *grudgingly* gave him permission.

gru-el /'gruːwəl/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a thin food made by boiling oatmeal or some other grain in water or milk • a bowl of *gruel*

gru-el-ing (US) or *Brit gru-el-ling* /'gruːwəlɪŋ/ *adj* [*more*



~; most ~] : very difficult : requiring great effort • a *grueling* race • His schedule is *grueling*.

grue·some /'gru:səm/ *adj* [more ~; most ~] : causing horror or disgust • The police report described the scene in *gruesome* detail. • a *gruesome* murder

– **grue·some·ly** *adv* • She was *gruesomely* murdered.

– **grue·some·ness** *noun* [noncount]

gruff /'grʌf/ *adj* **gruff·er; gruff·est**

1 : rough or very serious in manner or speech • Don't be fooled by his *gruff* manner—he's really very kind. • his *gruff* charm • a *gruff* old man

2 *of a voice* : low and rough • He spoke in a *gruff* voice.

– **gruff·ly** *adv* • He answered their questions *gruffly*.

– **gruff·ness** *noun* [noncount] • Don't be fooled by his *gruffness*—he's really very kind.

grum·ble /'grʌmbəl/ *verb* **grum·bles; grum·bled; grum·bling**

1 : to complain quietly about something : to talk in an unhappy way [no obj] There's been a lot of *grumbling* among the employees. • Some of the customers have been *grumbling* about poor service. • Fans *grumbled* about the team's poor play. [+ obj] "When are we going to leave?" he *grumbled*.

2 [no obj] : to make a low, heavy sound : RUMBLE • His stomach was *grumbling*. • We could hear thunder *grumbling* in the distance.

– **grumble** *noun*, *pl* **grumbles** [count] • We could hear the *grumble* of thunder in the distance. – **grum·bler** /'grʌmbələ/ *noun*, *pl* **-blers** [count] • He tries to ignore the *grumblers* and just do his job. – **grum·bling** *noun*, *pl* **-blings** [count, noncount] • Your *grumbling* needs to stop.

grump /'grʌmp/ *noun*, *pl* **grumps** [count] *informal* : a person who is often angry or who often complains • Our neighbor is an old *grump*.

grumpy /'grʌmpi/ *adj* **grump·i·er; -est** *informal* : easily annoyed or angered : having a bad temper or complaining often • Our neighbor is a *grumpy* old man. • I was feeling *grumpy* after my long flight.

– **grump·i·ly** /'grʌmpəli/ *adv* • "Leave me alone," he said *grumpily*. – **grump·i·ness** /'grʌmpinə/ *noun* [noncount]

grunge /'grʌŋdʒ/ *noun* [noncount]

1 : a type of loud rock music that was popular especially in the early 1990s • I'm a fan of *grunge*. • a *grunge* band; also : the fashions associated with this type of music • the *grunge* look

2 *US, informal* : heavy dirt • I cleared the *grunge* out of the drains.

grun·gy /'grʌŋdʒi/ *adj* **grun·gi·er; -est** *chiefly US, informal* : 'DIRTY • After working in the garden all day, I felt sweaty and *grungy*. • a *grungy* pair of jeans • a *grungy* movie theater

grunt /'grʌnt/ *noun*, *pl* **grunts** [count]

1 : a short, low sound from the throat • the *grunt* of a pig • I could hear the *grunts* of the movers as they lifted the heavy furniture. • He answered her with a *grunt*.

2 *informal* : a U.S. soldier especially in the Vietnam War • He was a *grunt* who worked his way up to become an officer.

3 *US, informal* : a person who does ordinary and boring work • He's just a *grunt* in the attorney's office. — often used in the phrase *grunt work* • She resents having to do all the *grunt work* for her boss.

grunt *verb* **grunts; grunt·ed; grunt·ing**

1 [no obj] : to make a short, low sound : to make a grunt • The workers were *grunting* with effort as they lifted the heavy furniture. • The pigs *grunted*. • He *grunted* in agreement.

2 [+ obj] : to say (something) with a grunt • She *grunted* a few words in reply, then turned and walked away.

Gru·yère /gru:'jeə/ *noun* [noncount] : a type of hard cheese from Switzerland with a nutty flavor

gryphon *variant spelling of GRIFFIN*

G-string /'dʒi:striŋ/ *noun*, *pl* **G-strings** [count] : a narrow strip of cloth that passes between the legs and is held up by a string around the waist

Gt. or Gt *abbr.* *chiefly Brit* great — used in place-names • *Gt. Britain*

gua·ca·mo·le /'gwɑ:kə'mouli/ *noun* [noncount] : a Mexican food made of mashed avocado usually mixed with chopped tomatoes and onion

gua·no /'gwɑ:nou/ *noun* [noncount] : waste material from birds and bats that is used to help plants grow

guar·an·tee /'gerən'ti:/ *noun*, *pl* **-tees** [count]

1 : a usually written promise: such as

a : a promise that the quality of something (such as a product that is being sold)

will be as good as expected • The washer comes with a *guarantee* against major defects. • The software comes with a *money-back guarantee*. [=a promise that the money you spend on a product will be returned if the product is not good enough]

b : a promise that something is true or real • They wanted a *guarantee* that the document was authentic.

2 : a promise that something will happen or be done • They want the new contract to include a *guarantee* of job security. • The U.S. Constitution includes *guarantees* against unreasonable searches. • He cited the First Amendment *guarantee* of free speech.

3 : a thing that makes something sure to happen or exist — often used in negative constructions • There is no *guarantee* that they will approve the contract. [=there is no way to be sure that they will approve it] • There's no *guarantee* they'll get here on time. • She took the job even though there was no *guarantee* of permanent employment.

4 : something valuable that the owner will allow to be taken if a promise is not kept or a loan is not paid back • We used our house as a *guarantee* for the loan. [=we said that the bank could take our house if we did not pay back the loan]

2guarantee *verb* **-tees; -teed; -tee·ing** [+ obj]

1 **a** : to make a usually written promise that whatever you are selling, doing, etc., is what you say it is • The washer is *guaranteed* against defects for one year. • They *guarantee* that the diamonds they sell are top quality. **b** : to promise to pay for (something) if another person fails to pay for it • He offered to personally *guarantee* the loan. • The investment was *guaranteed* by the bank.

2 **a** : to say (something) with great confidence • I *guarantee* that you'll be satisfied. • He *guaranteed* us that everything would go according to plan. **b** : to make (something) certain • We can't *guarantee* your safety. = We can't *guarantee* (you) that you'll be safe. • Money doesn't *guarantee* a happy life. **c** : to say that (something) will certainly happen • He *guaranteed* a victory in the championship game.

guar·an·teed *adj*

1 : protected or promised by a guarantee • a *guaranteed* annual wage • a *guaranteed* annuity

2 : certain to happen or to do something — followed by *to* + *verb* • If we don't take an umbrella, it's *guaranteed to rain*. [=it will certainly rain] • He's *guaranteed to reject* my ideas.

guar·an·tor /'gerən'toə/ *noun*, *pl* **-tors** [count] *finance* : a person who promises to pay back a loan if the original borrower does not pay it back

guar·an·ty /'gerənti/ *noun*, *pl* **-ties** [count]

1 *law* : a formal promise to pay a debt • a loan *guaranty* [=guarantee] — often used in the names of financial companies • He worked for the Morgan *Guaranty* Trust Company.

2 : something that protects or maintains the existence of something else • the *guaranty* [=guarantee] of free speech

1guard /'gæd/ *noun*, *pl* **guards**

1 [noncount] : a state in which someone is carefully looking for possible danger, threats, problems, etc. • There were dozens of police officers *standing/keeping guard* along the parade route. • Several soldiers were *on guard* [=watching and ready to respond if needed] at the gate. • The soldiers were *on their guard*. [=they were watching and ready to respond] • We need to be *on guard against* attack. [=we need to be alert so we are not attacked; we should be prepared to be attacked] • He always *has/keeps his guard up* [=is careful and alert] during negotiations. • She never *lets down her guard*. = She never *lets her guard down*. [=she never relaxes and stops being careful and alert]

2 **a** [count] : a person whose job or duty is to watch and protect someone or something • There were several (armed) *guards* stationed at the gate. • (US) a prison *guard* [=someone who watches prisoners to prevent their escape] — see also SECURITY GUARD **b** [count] : a group of people (such as soldiers) who protect a person or place • the palace *guard* • Tourists gather every day to watch the changing of the *guard* at Buckingham Palace. **c the Guards** : soldiers who protect a king or queen • the Royal Horse *Guards* — see also COLOR GUARD, HONOR GUARD, OLD GUARD, REARGUARD

3 [count] **a** : something that keeps an unwanted result or effect from happening — often + *against* • The wound should be thoroughly cleaned as a *guard against* infection. — see also SAFEGUARD **b** : a special part or device that protects someone or something from injury or damage • The *guard* must be in place before operating the meat slicer. • a mouth/shin *guard*

4 [count] **a** *American football* : either one of two players

who play in positions on either side of the center **b** *basketball* : either one of two players who usually play away from the basket and control their team's play when they are trying to score points — see also POINT GUARD

5 [count] *Brit* : CONDUCTOR 2

off guard : in an unprepared state : not ready • They've been bluffing, trying to keep him *off guard*. • Her angry response *caught me off guard*. [=surprised me] • We were *thrown off guard* [=surprised] by their early arrival.

under guard : in the position of someone (such as a prisoner) who is being watched by a guard • He was arrested and placed *under guard*. [=he was arrested and watched carefully so he would not escape]

guard *verb* **guards; guard-ed; guard-ing** [+ *obj*]

1 : to watch (someone) in order to prevent escape • Two policemen were assigned to *guard* the prisoner.

2 : to protect (someone or something) from danger or attack • soldiers *guarding* the president • A tank *guarded* the bridge from/against enemy attack. • A police officer was stationed outside to *guard* the door/entrance.

3 : to be careful about not telling or talking about (something, such as a secret) • They jealously *guard* their secrets. • He *guards* his privacy. • Her whereabouts are a tightly/closely *guarded* secret.

4 *sports* : to try to keep (an opponent) from scoring (especially in basketball) • He was assigned to *guard* their best player.

guard against [*phrasal verb*] **guard against (something)** : to try to keep (something) from happening • Clean the wound to *guard against* infection. • That's the sort of thinking we have to *guard against*. • We need to *guard against* waste.

guard dog *noun, pl ~ dogs* [count] : a dog that is trained to protect a place : WATCHDOG

guarded /'gɑːdəd/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] : very careful about giving information, showing feelings, etc. • They're being very *guarded* about their plans. [=they are not saying much about their plans] • a *guarded* answer • *guarded* [=cautious] optimism

– **guard-ed-ly** *adv* • *guardedly* optimistic

guard-house /'gɑːd,haʊs/ *noun, pl -houses* [count] : a building for soldiers who are watching something (such as an entrance)

guard-i-an /'gɑːdijən/ *noun, pl -ans* [count]

1 : someone or something that watches or protects something — often + *of* • The historical society sees itself as the *guardian of* the town's traditions. • a usage criticized by people who consider themselves *guardians of* proper English

2 *law* : someone who takes care of another person or of another person's property • After the death of her parents, her uncle was appointed as her legal *guardian*.

– **guard-i-an-ship** /'gɑːdijən,ʃɪp/ *noun* [noncount] • their *guardianship* of the town's traditions • The court granted *guardianship* to her uncle.

guardian angel *noun, pl ~ -gels* [count]

1 : an angel believed to watch and protect someone

2 : a helpful or protective person • He has become a *guardian angel* for struggling young artists.

guard-rail /'gɑːd,reɪl/ *noun, pl -rails* [count]

1 *US* : a strong metal bar along the side of a road that prevents vehicles from driving off the road — called also (*Brit*) *crash barrier*

2 : a strong bar or fence that prevents people from falling off a deck, bridge, etc.

guards-man /'gɑːdzmən/ *noun, pl -men* /-mən/ [count]

1 : a U.S. soldier in the National Guard or the Coast Guard • *Guardsmen* were deployed to the region.

2 : a British soldier in the Guards

guard's van *noun, pl ~ vans* [count] *Brit* : CABOOSE

gua·va /'gwa:və/ *noun, pl -vas*

1 [count, noncount] : the sweet yellow fruit of a tropical American tree

2 [count] : a tree that produces guavas

gu·ber-na-to-ri-al /gu:bə'nə'torijəl/ *adj* : of or relating to the governor of a U.S. state or to the position of governor • a *gubernatorial* candidate • the *gubernatorial* campaign/election

guer-ril-la *also* **gue-ril-la** /gə'rɪlə/ *noun, pl -las* [count] : a member of a usually small group of soldiers who do not belong to a regular army and who fight in a war as an independent unit • The *guerrillas* controlled half the country. — often used before another noun • *guerrilla* warfare/raids/attacks

1 **guess** /'ges/ *verb* **guess-es; guessed; guess-ing**

1 a : to form an opinion or give an answer about something when you do not know much or anything about it [+ *obj*] Can you *guess* how many people were there? • He *guessed* that it would rain today. • It was colder and windier than I had *guessed* it would be. • She can only *guess* what he meant. • I'm *guessing* that she won't come. [=I don't think she'll come] • I never would have *guessed* [=I am very surprised] that you could be so selfish. [*no obj*] I had to choose one, and I *guessed* right/wrong. • If you can't think of an answer, *guess*. • "I just heard why he left her." "Let me *guess*—another woman." • As you might have *guessed*, her parents are not happy about her decision. • We can only *guess* at what really happened. ♦ *Guess* is used in phrases like *guess what* or *guess who* as an informal way of indicating that you have surprising news. • "Guess what!" "What?" "I bought a new car." • "Guess who I saw yesterday!" "Who?" "My old boyfriend from high school." • *Guess where* I'm going on my vacation! • You'll never *guess what* happened to me today. [=you will be surprised by what happened to me today] **b** [+ *obj*] : to guess (something) correctly : to make a correct conclusion about (someone or something) by chance • She *guessed* my age on her first try. • It took us a while to *guess* the answer to the riddle. ♦ The phrase *you guessed it* is used as an informal way of saying that what follows is just what you would expect. • We had lunch at Smith's Café, which is owned by, *you guessed it*, John Smith.

2 [+ *obj*] *chiefly US, informal* : to suppose or think (something) — usually used following the pronoun *I* • *I guess* you're right. • *I guess* this means that we can't go. • What saved her, *I guess* [=I imagine], was her quick wit. • *I guess* you could say that it was all his fault. ♦ In responding to a question, the phrase *I guess (so)* is used as an informal way of agreeing or saying "yes" when you are not certain or not very excited or interested. • "Are you hungry?" "*I guess.*" • "This one looks better, doesn't it?" "*I guess so.*" ♦ The phrase *I guess not* is used as an informal way of agreeing with a negative statement or of saying "no." • "That wasn't a very smart thing to do, was it?" "*I guess not.*" — see also SECOND-GUESS

keep (someone) guessing or chiefly US leave (someone) guessing : to make it impossible for someone to know what will happen next • The many twists and turns in the plot will *keep readers guessing* until the last page. • He likes to *leave us guessing* about his plans.

– **guess-er** *noun, pl -ers* [count] • a lucky *guesser*

2 **guess** *noun, pl guesses* [count] : an attempt to give an opinion or answer about something when you do not know much about it or are not sure about it • I'm not sure how old he is, but I'm willing to hazard/venture a *guess*. • My *guess* is that he'll change his story when he realizes how much trouble he's in. • There might be about 20 people there, but that's just a (rough) *guess*. • If you don't know the answer, *make a guess*. = (*US*) If you don't know the answer, *take a guess*. = (*chiefly Brit*) If you don't know the answer, *have a guess*. • "How many people will be there?" "I don't know. *Your guess is as good as mine.*" [=I don't know any more than you do] • "I have no idea how many peanuts are in the jar." "Take a *wild guess.*" [=a guess based on no knowledge or information] ♦ An *educated/informed guess* is a guess that is probably close to being correct because it is based on some amount of knowledge. • Forecasters will be making an *educated guess* about the demand for electricity this summer.

anybody's/anyone's guess ♦ Something that is *anybody's/anyone's guess* is something that is very uncertain or that no one knows. • What causes these changes is *anybody's guess*. [=no one knows what causes these changes] • It's *anyone's guess* what his next book will be about.

guessing game *noun, pl ~ games* [count] : a game in which the player has to correctly guess the answer — often used figuratively • Making a diagnosis in such cases can be a real *guessing game*. • Reporters continue to play a *guessing game* as they wait to hear her final decision. [=they continue to guess about what her final decision will be]

guess-ti-mate /'gestə,meɪt/ *verb* **-mates; -mat-ed; -mat-ing** [+ *obj*] *informal* : to make a quick estimate of (something) • He used a simple formula to *guesstimate* the amount of material he would need for the job.

– **guess-ti-mate** /'gestəmət/ *noun, pl -mates* [count] • He made a *guesstimate* of how much material he needed.

guess-work /'ges,wæk/ *noun* [noncount] : the act or process of finding an answer by guessing • This book takes the *guesswork* out of buying a home. [=it gives you the informa-



tion you need so that you can be sure about what to do] • Calculating the drug's long-term effects is pure *guesswork*.

guest /'gest/ *noun, pl guests* [count]

1 : a person who is invited to visit or stay in someone's home • Our *guests* should be arriving soon. • a dinner/party *guest* • an overnight *guest*

2 : a person who is invited to a place or an event as a special honor • Only invited *guests* are allowed inside the banquet hall. • He played at the country club as a *guest* of one of the members. • She will be the *guest of honor* [=the person who is being specially honored] at the annual banquet. • He was the *guest speaker* [=a person invited to a gathering to give a speech] at the awards ceremony. • The *guest list* [=the list of people who are being invited] for the party is getting long.

3 : a customer at a hotel, restaurant, etc. • Our *guests* receive the finest quality service. • Frequent *guests* receive a discount. • *Paying guests* [=guests who have paid to stay in or use something] may use the fitness room.

4 : a usually well-known person who is invited to appear or perform on a program, at an event, etc. • They frequently appeared as *guests* on TV talk shows. • a celebrity *guest* — often used before another noun • a *guest star* • He made several *guest appearances/shots* on the series.

be my guest — used in speech to say that someone is welcome to do or take something • "Could I borrow your pen?" "Sure, *be my guest*."

guest book *noun, pl ~ books* [count] : a book of blank pages in which guests at an event (such as a wedding or funeral) or a place (such as an art gallery) sign their names

guest-house /'gest,haus/ *noun, pl -houses* [count]

1 chiefly US : a building that is separate from the main house of a property and that is used for guests • The estate includes a small *guesthouse*.

2 chiefly Brit : a small hotel; also : a private house that accepts paying guests

guest room *noun, pl ~ rooms* [count] : a bedroom for guests — called also *guest bedroom*

guest worker *noun, pl ~ -kers* [count] : a person from one country who lives and works for a time in another country

guff /'gʌf/ *noun* [noncount] *informal*

1 : foolish nonsense • His latest book has a lot of *guff* about conspiracies of one kind or another.

2 chiefly US : annoying or playful criticism • His friends have given him a lot of *guff* about his hair. • She doesn't take *guff* from anybody.

guf-faw /gə'fɑ:/ *verb -faws; -fawed; -faw-ing* [no obj] : to laugh loudly • The reporters were *guffawing* at all his jokes.

— **guffaw** *noun, pl -faws* [count] • Her remark sparked *guffaws* around the room. • He let out a loud *guffaw*.

GUI *abbr* graphical user interface

guid-ance /'gaɪdɪns/ *noun* [noncount]

1 : help or advice that tells you what to do : the act or process of guiding someone or something • I couldn't have done it without her *guidance*. • We need more *guidance* on how to handle these unusual cases. • expert *guidance* • moral/spiritual *guidance*

2 : the process of controlling the flight of something (such as a missile) • There are problems with the missile's *guidance* (system).

guidance counselor *noun, pl ~ -lors* [count] US : a person who gives help and advice to students about educational and personal decisions

¹guide /'gaɪd/ *noun, pl guides* [count]

1 a : a person who leads or directs other people on a journey • We hired a *guide* for our trip to the mountains. • a river *guide* **b** : a person who shows and explains the interesting things in a place • a museum *guide* • a tour *guide*

2 : a person who helps to direct another person's behavior, life, career, etc. • He was my friend and my *guide* in the early years of my career.

3 : something that helps to direct a person's actions, thoughts, etc. • They used the stars as a *guide* to find their way back. • If past experience is any *guide*, we're in for a long and difficult project. • Let your conscience be your *guide*. [=do what your conscience says is right]

4 : a book, magazine, etc., that provides information about a particular subject • a street *guide* • The book is intended to be a *guide* for new parents. • a dining/restaurant *guide* — often + *to* • a *guide to* teenage slang • I bought him a *guide to* Poland. — see also FIELD GUIDE

5 *Guide Brit* : GIRL GUIDE

²guide *verb guides; guid-ed; guid-ing* [+ obj]

1 : to direct or lead (someone) • She *guided* them outside. • He *guided* us around the city. — often + *through* or *to* • Staff members are available to *guide* visitors *through* the exhibits. • We were *guided to* our seats by an usher. • You'll need an experienced lawyer to *guide* you *through* the legal system.

2 a : to direct or control the path or course of (something) • He claims that there were unknown forces *guiding* the outcome of the election. • He carefully *guided* the ship into the harbor. • She *guided* her team to victory. **b** : to direct or influence the thoughts or behavior of (someone) • Let your conscience *guide* you. • Her example helped to *guide* me toward a career in medicine. • In his work, he has always been *guided* by a desire to help other people. • programs to help *guide* teenagers away from drug use • She had a *guiding* influence on my decision. • His *guiding principle* when he built his house was that bigger was better.

guide-book /'gaɪd,bʊk/ *noun, pl -books* [count] : a book of information for travelers

guided *adj* : led by a guide • a *guided* tour of the factory

guided missile *noun, pl ~ -siles* [count] : a missile whose course may be changed during flight

guide dog *noun, pl ~ dogs* [count] : a dog that is specially trained to lead and help blind people

guide-line /'gaɪd,lain/ *noun, pl -lines* [count] : a rule or instruction that shows or tells how something should be done — usually plural • The government has issued new *guidelines* for following a healthy and balanced diet. • calling for stricter *guidelines* • Here are some basic *guidelines* for helping you choose a dishwasher.

guide-post /'gaɪd,pəʊst/ *noun, pl -posts* [count] chiefly US : a post next to a trail or road that has a sign on it with directions for travelers • The *guidepost* said that the camp was to the left. — often used figuratively • There are few *guideposts* to help young parents. • *guideposts* for raising children

guide word *noun, pl ~ words* [count] : either one of the words that are at the top of a page in a dictionary or similar book and that show the first and last words on the page

guild /'gɪld/ *noun, pl guilds* [count] : an organized group of people who have joined together because they share the same job or interest • the local artists' *guild*; especially : an association of people who made or sold goods in the Middle Ages

guil-der /'gɪldə/ *noun, pl -ders* [count] : a basic unit of money that was formerly used in the Netherlands; also : a coin or bill representing one guilder — called also *guilder*

guile /'gaɪəl/ *noun* [noncount] : the use of clever and usually dishonest methods to achieve something • When they couldn't win by honest means, they resorted to *guile*. [=duplicity]

guile-less /'gaɪələs/ *adj* [more ~; most ~] : very innocent : NAIVE • a *guileless* person/smile

¹guil-lo-tine /'gɪlə,tɪn/ *noun, pl -tines* [count] : a machine with a heavy blade that was used in the past to cut off the heads of people who had been sentenced to death

²guillotine *verb -tines; -tined; -tin-ing* [+ obj] : to cut off the head of (someone) with a machine that drops a heavy blade on the person's neck : to kill (someone) with a guillotine — usually used as (be) *guillotined* • people *guillotined* during the French Revolution

guilt /'gɪlt/ *noun, pl guilts*

1 [noncount] : responsibility for a crime or for doing something bad or wrong • The jury determines the defendant's *guilt* or innocence. • an admission of *guilt* • His *guilt* in the matter was indisputable. • It was clear that the *guilt* lay with him. — opposite INNOCENCE

2 : a bad feeling caused by knowing or thinking that you have done something bad or wrong [noncount] I was overwhelmed by feelings of *guilt*. [=shame] • a strong sense of *guilt* • She feels *guilt* over something that happened before she was born! • *guilt-ridden* people [=people who feel a lot of guilt] [count] our secret *guilts* and insecurities

— **guilt-less** /'gɪltləs/ *adj* [more ~; most ~] • He's not entirely to blame, but he's not *guiltless* [=innocent], either. • a *guiltless* pleasure [=a pleasure that does not make you feel guilty]

guilt trip *noun, pl ~ trips* [count] *informal* : a feeling of guilt that you get when someone suggests that you have done something wrong or that you are not doing something that you should • "I guess you're just too busy to call." "I don't need the *guilt trip*, Mom. If you want me to call more often,

just say so.” • The speaker *laid/put a (big) guilt trip on us* [=tried to make us feel bad or sorry] by describing in detail how much waste the average American generates.

guilty /'gɪlti/ *adj* **guilt-i-er; -est** [*also more ~; most ~*]

1 : responsible for committing a crime or doing something bad or wrong • Do you think he's innocent or *guilty*? • Will the defendant plead *guilty* or not *guilty*? • Police have not been able to identify the *guilty party*. [=the person who committed the crime] • The state will prove that the defendants are *guilty as charged* [=that they committed the crime they are accused of committing] • (*informal*) They're (*as*) *guilty as sin* [=completely/very guilty] — often + *of* • The jury found her *guilty of* manslaughter. • The only thing I'm *guilty of* is bad taste. — sometimes used informally in a joking way • “Did you plan this party?” “*Guilty as charged.*” [=yes, I did] — opposite **INNOCENT**

2 a : showing that you know you have done something bad or wrong • The children exchanged *guilty* looks. • He was acting like someone with a *guilty* conscience. **b** : feeling bad because you have done something bad or wrong or because you believe you have done something bad or wrong • There's no need to feel *guilty* about it. • Chocolate is one of my *guilty pleasures*. [=something that I enjoy even though eating it causes feelings of guilt]

— **guilt-i-ly** /'gɪltəli/ *adv* • She hung her head *guiltily*.

guin·ea /'ɡɪni/ *noun, pl -eas* [*count*] : an old British coin worth 21 shillings

guinea fowl *noun, pl ~ fowl or ~ fowls* [*count*] : a gray-and-white spotted bird that is commonly raised for food

guinea hen *noun, pl ~ hens* [*count*] : a female guinea fowl

guinea pig *noun, pl ~ pigs* [*count*]

1 : a small animal that is often kept as a pet — see picture at **RODENT**

2 : a person or thing used for testing something • He volunteered to act as a *guinea pig* in the experiment.

guise /'gaɪz/ *noun, pl guis-es*

1 [*count*] : one of several or many different ways in which something is seen, experienced, or produced • They serve the same basic dish in various *guises*. [=forms]

2 [*singular*] : a way of seeming or looking that is not true or real • She swindles people *under the guise of* friendship. [=by pretending to be their friend] • a story about a demon *in the guise of* an angel [=a demon disguised as an angel; a demon made to look like an angel]

gui·tar /ɡɪ'tɑː/ *noun, pl -tars* [*count*] : a musical instrument that is held against the front of your body and that has usually six strings which are played with your fingers or with a pick • an acoustic/electric *guitar* • I'm learning to play the *guitar*. = (*US*) I'm learning to play *guitar*. • a *guitar* player — see picture at **STRINGED INSTRUMENT**

— **gui·tar·ist** /ɡɪ'tarɪst/ *noun, pl -ists* [*count*] • She's a very talented *guitarist*.

gulch /'ɡʌlʃ/ *noun, pl gulch-es* [*count*] *chiefly US* : a small, narrow valley with steep sides : **RAVINE**

gul·den /'ɡuːldən/ *noun, pl gul-dens or gulden* [*count*] : **GUILDER**

gulf /'ɡʌlf/ *noun, pl gulfs* [*count*]

1 : a large area of ocean that is partly surrounded by land — often used in proper names • the *Gulf of Mexico* • the *Persian Gulf* — often used before another noun • They have a home on the *Gulf Coast*. [=the coast of the Gulf of Mexico] • the (*Persian*) *Gulf region* • the *Gulf states* [=the U.S. states next to the Gulf of Mexico or the countries next to the Persian Gulf]

2 : a difference between two people, groups, or things — often + *between* • The report examines the (*widening*) *gulf* [=gap, divide] *between* the state's rich and poor schools. • The program is intended to help *bridge the gulf between* younger and older generations.

Gulf War syndrome *noun* [*noncount*] : a group of medical problems experienced by people who fought in the war in the Persian Gulf in 1991

1 **gull** /'ɡʌl/ *noun, pl gulls* [*count*] : a large, common, usually gray and white bird that lives near the ocean : **SEAGULL**

2 **gull** *verb* **gulls; gulled; gull-ing** [+ *obj*] *old-fashioned* : to fool or trick (someone) • I was *gulled* [=deceived] by their false promises of easy money.

gul·let /'ɡʌlət/ *noun, pl -lets* [*count*] : the tube that leads from the mouth through the throat to the stomach : **ESOPHAGUS** • the fish's *gullet*

gull·ible /'ɡʌləbəl/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] : easily fooled or

cheated; *especially* : quick to believe something that is not true • I'm not *gullible* enough to believe something that outrageous. • They sell overpriced souvenirs to *gullible* tourists.

— **gull·ibil·i·ty** /,ɡʌlə'bɪləti/ *noun* [*noncount*] — **gull·ibly** /'ɡʌləbli/ *adv*

gul·ly *also gul·ley* /'ɡʌli/ *noun, pl -lies also -leys* [*count*] : a long, narrow cut or low area in the ground that water moves through when it rains

gulp /'ɡʌlp/ *verb* **gulps; gulped; gulp-ing**

1 [+ *obj*] : to eat or swallow (something) quickly or in large amounts • She told him not to *gulp* his food. — often + *down* • Don't *gulp down* your dinner like that. • They *gulped down* a couple of beers and left.

2 : to take (air) into your lungs quickly [+ *obj*] The exhausted racers lay on the ground, *gulping* air. [*no obj*] The exhausted racers were *gulping* for air.

3 : to swallow because of strong emotion (such as fear or shock) [*no obj*] I *gulped* nervously before beginning my speech. [+ *obj*] “That's a lot of money,” she *gulped*. • He *gulped back* tears as he thanked the rescuers.

— **gulp** *noun, pl gulps* [*count*] • He ate it in one *gulp*. • We *gobbled up* the cookies between *gulps* of coffee. • She took several *gulps* of air. — **gulp·er** *noun, pl -ers* [*count*] • coffee *gulpers*

1 **gum** /'ɡʌm/ *noun, pl gums* [*count*] : the flesh that surrounds the roots of your teeth — usually plural • The dentist said my *gums* are swollen/inflamed. — see picture at **MOUTH** — compare **³GUM**

2 **gum** *verb* **gums; gummed; gum-ming** [+ *obj*] *US* : to chew (something) with the gums because you do not have teeth • The baby *gummed* her food. — compare **⁴GUM**

3 **gum** *noun, pl gums*

1 a [*noncount*] : **CHEWING GUM** • a stick/piece of *gum* • a pack of *gum* — see also **BUBBLE GUM** **b** [*count*] *Brit* : **GUM-DROP** • fruit *gums*

2 [*count, noncount*] : a sticky substance in some kinds of plants that is hard when it dries

by gum *informal + old-fashioned* — used to show that you are surprised or determined • I looked it up, and *by gum*, she was right! • *By gum*, I really mean it this time! — compare **¹GUM**

4 **gum** *verb* **gums; gummed; gumming**

gum up [*phrasal verb*] *gum (something) up or gum up (something)* *informal* : to prevent (something) from working or flowing properly • Don't use that paper with the copier; you'll *gum* it up. • The highway construction has really *gummed up* traffic. • The bearings are all *gummed up* [=clogged up] with mud. — often used in phrase *gum up the works* • Some dirt got inside the gears and *gummed up the works*. • The new regulations have really *gummed up the works* in the office. — compare **²GUM**

gum·bo /'ɡʌmbou/ *noun, pl -bos* [*count, noncount*] : a thick soup made in the southern U.S. with meat or seafood and usually okra • a bowl of real Cajun *gumbo* — sometimes used figuratively • a cultural *gumbo* [=a mixture of cultures]

gum·drop /'ɡʌm,drɑ:p/ *noun, pl -drops* [*count*] *US* : a sweet, chewy candy — called also (*Brit*) *gum*

gum·my /'ɡʌmi/ *adj* **gum-mi-er; -est** [*also more ~; most ~*] : made of, containing, or covered with gum or a sticky or chewy substance • *gummy* candy • How did you get your hands so *gummy*? • a *gummy* [=sticky] substance

— **gum·mi·ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

gump·tion /'ɡʌmpʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*] *informal* : courage and confidence • It took a lot of *gumption* to speak up for yourself like that.

gum·shoe /'ɡʌm,ʃu:/ *noun, pl -shoes* [*count*] *US, informal + old-fashioned* : a person whose job is to find information about someone or something : a private detective — used especially to imitate the language of old detective novels • The movie's main character is a hard-boiled *gumshoe*.

gum tree *noun*

up a gum tree *Brit, informal* : in a very difficult situation that you cannot get out of • If they don't deliver the parts we need, we'll really be *up a gum tree*! [=up the creek]

1 **gun** /'ɡʌn/ *noun, pl guns* [*count*]

1 : a weapon that shoots bullets or shells • big/heavy *guns* • He pulled/drew a *gun* on us. [=he took out a gun and pointed it at us] • a loaded *gun* [=a gun that has bullets in it] • fire/shoot a *gun* • carry a *gun* • a *gun* battle between gang members and the police • She claimed that the *gun* went off acci-



dentally. • a toy **gun** — see also AIR GUN, BB GUN, HAND-GUN, MACHINE GUN, SHOTGUN, STUN GUN, SUBMACHINE GUN

2 : STARTING GUN

3 : a tool or device that looks like a gun • a grease/spray/radar **gun**

— see also BIG GUN, HIRED GUN, SMOKING GUN, TOP GUN, WATER GUN, YOUNG GUN

go great guns informal : to do something or proceed in a very quick, effective, and successful way • The new program has been **going great guns** since it began last spring.

hold/put a gun to someone's head : to force someone to do something by using threats • You don't have to go if you don't want to. No one's **holding a gun to your head**.

jump the gun informal : to start or do something too soon • Several racers **jumped the gun**. [=started to race before the starting gun was fired] • The newspaper **jumped the gun** [=acted too soon] and announced the wrong candidate as winner of the election.

stick to your guns : to continue to have a particular opinion, plan, etc., when other people criticize you and say that you are wrong • Despite criticism from the press, the governor is **sticking to her guns** on this issue.

under the gun chiefly US : in a situation in which you are getting a lot of criticism or pressure or in which you have only a short amount of time to do something • We were **under the gun** to finish the project on time. • Those responsible for the error suddenly found themselves **under the gun**.

with (all/both) guns blazing : while firing guns • They stepped out from behind the building **with guns blazing**. — often used figuratively • The team came out **with all guns blazing** in the second half. [=the team was playing very forcefully and well]

2 gun verb guns; gunned; gun-ning [+ obj] informal

1 US : to cause (a car or a car's engine) to go very fast by pressing the accelerator • She **let the car coast down the hill**, then **gunned it**. • He **gunned the engine**.

2 US : to throw (something) very hard • The shortstop **gunned the ball to first base**.

gun down [phrasal verb] gun down (someone) or gun (someone) down : to shoot (someone) with a gun • He was **gunned down** in the street.

gun for [phrasal verb] 1 gun for (something) : to try to get or achieve (something) in a very determined way • The team is **gunning for** its third straight championship this year. • That guy is **gunning for** my job. **2 gun for (someone)** : to try to hurt or defeat (someone) • Her political enemies will be **gunning for** her if she runs for reelection.

gun-boat /'gʌn,bəʊt/ *noun*, *pl* -boats [count] : a small ship with guns

gunboat diplomacy : the threat to use military force against a country as a way of forcing the country to do something

gun control *noun* [noncount] : laws that control how guns are sold and used and who can own them

gun dog *noun*, *pl* ~ dogs [count] *Brit* : BIRD DOG

gun-fight /'gʌn,fait/ *noun*, *pl* -fights [count] : a fight in which people shoot guns at each other • There was a **gunfight** between the rival gangs.

— **gun-fight-er** /'gʌn,faitə/ *noun*, *pl* -ers [count]

gun-fire /'gʌn,fajə/ *noun* [noncount] : the firing of guns • We heard **gunfire** in the distance. • There was (an exchange of) **gunfire** between the gangs. [=they shot guns at each other]

gunge /'gʌndʒ/ *noun* [noncount] *Brit, informal* : ¹GUNK • The old windows were covered in **gunge**.

— **gun-gy** /'gʌndʒi/ *adj* **gun-gi-er; -est**

gung ho /'gʌŋ'həʊ/ *adj* [more ~; most ~] sometimes disapproving : extremely excited and enthusiastic about doing something • We were really **gung ho** about joining the team. • **gung ho** recruits

1 gunk /'gʌŋk/ *noun* [noncount] chiefly US, informal : material that is dirty, sticky, or greasy • The engine was all full of **gunk**. • I need to wipe this **gunk** off my hands.

— **gunky** /'gʌŋki/ *adj* **gunk-i-er; -est** • Your hands are all **gunky**! • a **gunky** residue

2 gunk verb gunks; gunked; gunk-ing

gunk up [phrasal verb] gunk up (something) or gunk (something) up US, informal : to cause (something) to be dirty, sticky, or greasy • Don't **gunk up** your hair with a lot of styling products. • The mechanism gets **gunked up** if you don't clean it regularly.

gun-man /'gʌnmən/ *noun*, *pl* -men /-mən/ [count] : a person (especially a man) who uses a gun to shoot someone or to try to shoot someone • They were shot by an unknown **gunman**.

gun moll *noun*, *pl* ~ molls [count] chiefly US, old-fashioned : MOLL

gun-ner /'gʌnə/ *noun*, *pl* -ners [count]

1 : a soldier who operates a large gun

2 Brit : a soldier in the British artillery

gun-nery /'gʌnəri/ *noun* [noncount] : the use of large military guns or the study of how such guns can be used effectively — often used before another noun • **gunnery practice** • a **gunnery range**

gun-ny-sack /'gʌni,sæk/ *noun*, *pl* -sacks [count] US : a large bag made of rough, heavy cloth (such as burlap)

gun-point /'gʌn,pɔɪnt/ *noun*

at gunpoint — used to describe a situation in which someone is being threatened by a person with a gun • They forced us out of the car **at gunpoint**. • They were robbed/held **at gunpoint**.

gun-pow-der /'gʌn,pəʊdə/ *noun* [noncount] : a dry explosive substance that is used in guns and to break open sections of rock or earth for mining, building roads, etc.

gun-ship /'gʌn,ʃɪp/ *noun*, *pl* -ships [count] : a military aircraft with rockets and machine guns • a helicopter **gunship**

gun-shot /'gʌn,ʃɔ:t/ *noun*, *pl* -shots

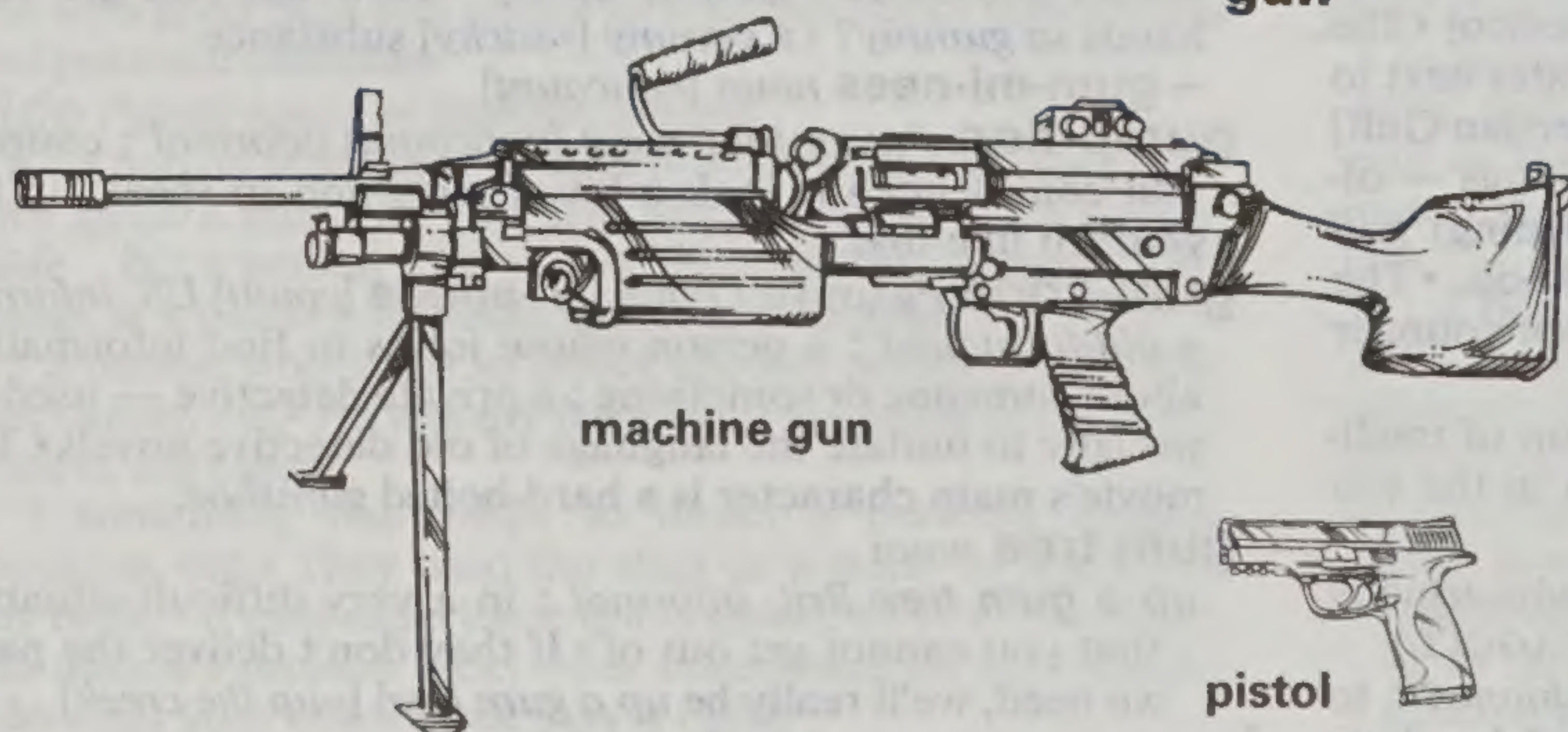
1 : bullets fired from a gun [noncount] death/murder by **gunshot** [count] He was killed by a **gunshot** to the head. — often used before another noun • **gunshot** wounds/victims

2 [count] : the firing of a gun • We heard several **gunshots**.

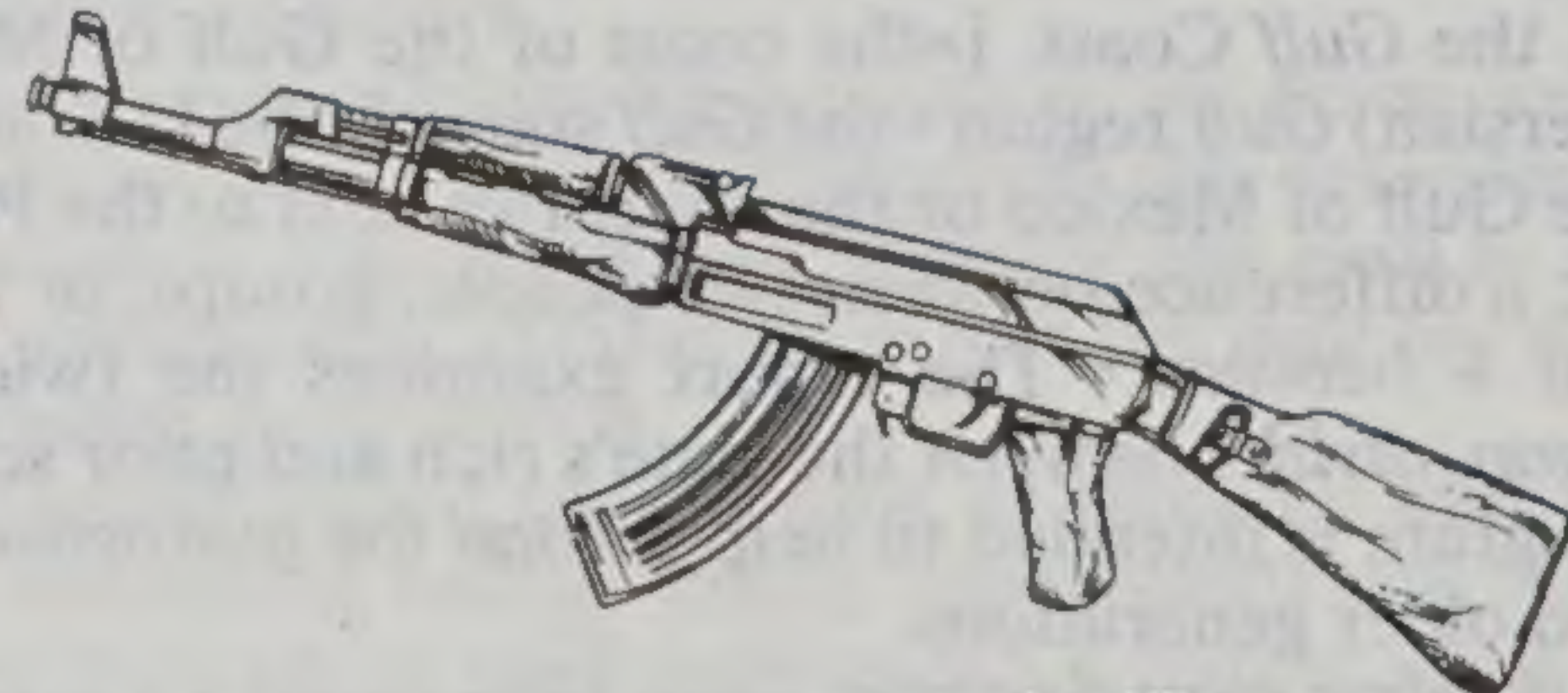
3 [noncount] : the distance that a bullet fired from a gun can travel — usually used in the phrase **within gunshot** • The target was **within gunshot** (range).

gun-sling-er /'gʌn,slɪŋə/ *noun*, *pl* -ers [count] : someone (such as a character in a story, movie, or television show) who is known for being able to handle and shoot a gun extremely well • a **gunslinger** in the Wild West

gun



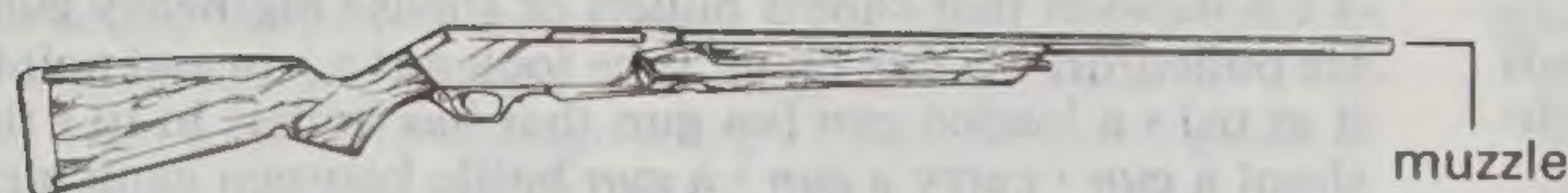
machine gun



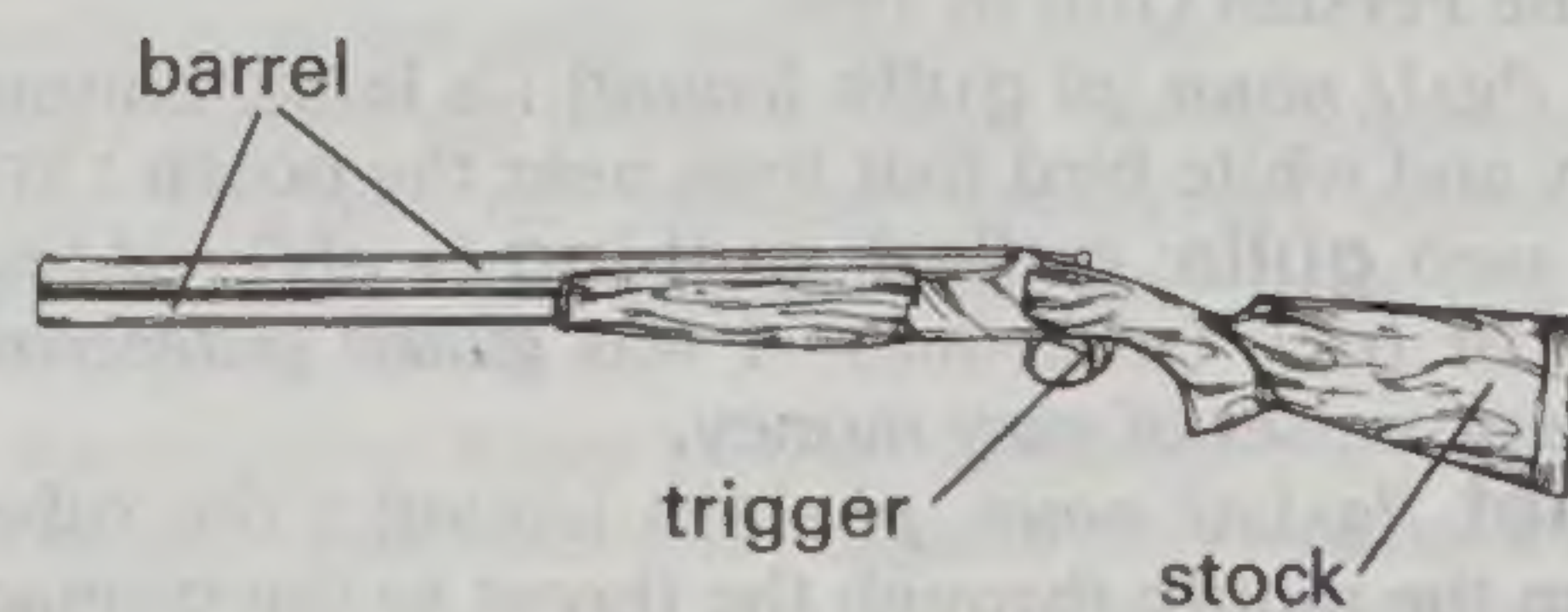
assault rifle



pistol



rifle



shotgun

muzzle

gun-smith /'gʌn,smɪθ/ *noun*, *pl* **-smiths** [*count*] : a person who designs, makes, or repairs guns

gun-wale /'gʌn/ *noun*, *pl* **-wales** [*count*] : the upper edge of a ship's or boat's side — see picture at **BOAT**

to the gunwales *informal* + *old-fashioned* : as full as possible • The car was loaded **to the gunwales** with gifts.

gup-py /'gʌpi/ *noun*, *pl* **-pies** [*count*] : a small tropical fish

gur-gle /'gəgəl/ *verb* **gur-gles**; **gur-gled**; **gur-gling** [*no obj*]

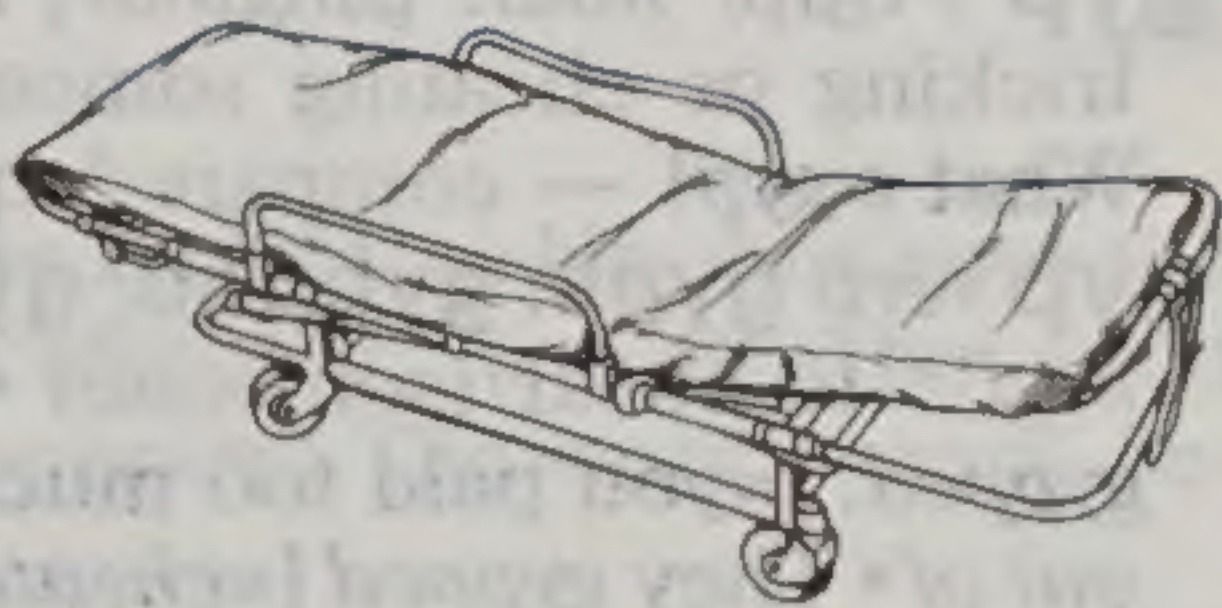
1 : to make the quiet sound of water moving over rocks, through a pipe, etc. • Nearby a stream was *gurgling*. [=bubbling, bubbling] • The water *gurgled* through the pipes.

2 : to make a sound like a liquid boiling or bubbling • I was so hungry that you could hear my stomach *gurgling*.

3 of a baby : to make happy and quiet sounds • The baby *gurgled* contentedly.

– gurgle *noun*, *pl* **gurgles** [*noncount*] the *gurgle* of running water [*count*] You could hear the creaks and *gurgles* of the pipes. • the *gurgles* of the baby

gur-ney /'gəni/ *noun*, *pl* **-neys** [*count*] *US* : a bed on a frame with wheels that is used for moving people who are sick or injured • a hospital *gurney*



gurney

gu-ru /'guru/ *noun*, *pl* **-rus** [*count*]

1 : a religious teacher and spiritual guide in Hinduism

2 a : a teacher or guide that you trust • He has been a *guru* to many young writers. **b** : a person who has a lot of experience in or knowledge about a particular subject • She's a self-proclaimed financial *guru*. • Fitness *gurus* call it the hottest new exercise trend of the year.

1 gush /'gʌʃ/ *verb* **gush-es**; **gushed**; **gush-ing**

1 a [*no obj*] : to flow out very quickly and in large amounts • Oil *gushed* from the well. • Blood *gushed* from the wound. **b** [+ *obj*] : to produce a large amount of (a quickly flowing liquid) • The well *gushed* oil.

2 often disapproving a [*no obj*] : to speak in an extremely enthusiastic way • I'm tired of hearing her *gush* about her boyfriend. • Everyone has been *gushing* over/about the baby. **b** [+ *obj*] : to say (something) in an extremely enthusiastic way • “Oh, your baby is so cute!” they *gushed*.

2 gush *noun*, *pl* **gushes** [*count*] : a sudden outward flow of a large amount of liquid • A *gush* of oil came out of the well. — sometimes used figuratively • a sudden *gush* of emotion

gush-er /'gʌʃə/ *noun*, *pl* **-ers** [*count*] : someone or something that gushes; *especially* : an oil well that produces a large and forceful flow of oil

gushy /'gʌʃi/ *adj* **gush-i-er**; **-est** [*also more ~; most ~*] *informal* + *usually disapproving* : very emotional or enthusiastic • *gushy* praise

gus-set /'gʌsət/ *noun*, *pl* **-sets** [*count*] : a piece of cloth usually in the shape of a triangle that is sewn into something (such as the underneath part of a sleeve) to make it wider or stronger

gus-sy /'gʌsi/ *verb* **gus-sies**; **gus-sied**; **gus-sy-ing**

gussy up [*phrasal verb*] *gussy* (someone or something) *up* or *gussy up* (someone or something) *US, informal* **1** : to put fancy clothes, jewelry, etc., on (someone) — usually used as (be) *gussied up* • She was all *gussied up* [=dressed up] for the party. **2** : to make (something) more attractive, impressive, or fancy • The streets were *gussied up* with lights and garlands for the festival. • I made a basic tomato soup and then added fresh herbs to *gussy* it *up*.

1 gust /'gʌst/ *noun*, *pl* **gusts** [*count*] : a sudden strong wind • His hat was blown off by a sudden *gust* (of wind). • Today's weather will be windy, with *gusts* of up to 40 miles per hour. — often used figuratively • *gusts* of laughter • a *gust* of emotion

– gust-i-ness /'gʌstɪnəs/ *noun* [*noncount*] • the *gustiness* of the winds — **gusty** /'gʌsti/ *adj* **gust-i-er**; **-est** • a *gusty* day • *gusty* winds

2 gust *verb* **gusts**; **gust-ed**; **gust-ing** [*no obj*] of wind : to blow strongly for a short time : to blow in gusts • The forecast calls for winds *gusting up* to 40 miles per hour.

gus-ta-to-ry /'gʌstə,tori, Brit 'gʌstətri/ *adj*, *formal* : relating to taste or the sense of taste • *gustatory* pleasures/delights

gus-to /'gʌstou/ *noun* [*noncount*] : great enjoyment, energy,

and enthusiasm — usually used in the phrase *with gusto* • She ate her dinner *with gusto*. • He played the role of the villain *with gusto*.

1 gut /'gʌt/ *noun*, *pl* **guts**

1 guts [*plural*] **a** : the internal organs of an animal • the *guts* of the fish • fish *guts* [=entrails] **b informal** : the inside parts of something • the *guts* of a machine **c informal** : the most important parts of something • the *guts* of a business deal

2 guts [*plural*] *informal* : COURAGE • That decision took a lot of *guts*. • I didn't have the *guts* to do it. ♦ The expression *no guts, no glory* is sometimes used in informal U.S. English to mean that if you do not have courage, you will never achieve success and fame.

3 [*count*] *informal* — used to talk about feelings, ideas, etc., that come from your emotions and from what seems true or right rather than from logic or reason • She knew in her *gut* that he was lying. • He knew he had to trust his *gut* [=instincts] and do what felt right. • What does your *gut* tell you to do?

4 [*count*] *informal* : a person's stomach or the part of the body that contains the stomach : BELLY • Her cruel remark was like a kick in the *gut*. • He has a big *gut*.

5 [*count*] : INTESTINE • a problem affecting the *gut*

6 [*noncount*] : CATGUT • a violin with *gut* strings

blood and guts : violent acts or images • a movie with lots of *blood and guts*

bust a gut also bust your gut informal **1** : to work or try extremely hard • We're going to have to *bust a gut* to finish this project on time. **2 US** : to laugh in an uncontrolled way • I thought I'd *bust a gut* (laughing) when you showed up in that silly outfit.

hate someone's guts informal : to hate or dislike someone very much • That guy really *hates my guts*.

spill your guts informal : to tell your secrets or private feelings to another person • What makes some people want to *spill their guts* on national television?

2 gut *adj*, *always used before a noun*

1 : relating to or based on emotions : not based on logic or reason • a *gut* feeling/reaction • *gut* instinct **2** : affecting people's emotions • *gut* issues

3 gut *verb* **guts**; **gut-ted**; **gut-ting** [+ *obj*]

1 : to remove the internal organs from (a fish or an animal) • The salmon is already *gutted* and filleted.

2 a : to destroy the inside of (a structure) • Fire *gutted* the building. — often used as (be) *gutted* • The building was completely *gutted* by fire. **b** : to destroy the power of (something) : to make (something) no longer effective • Critics claim that these reforms will *gut* the law.

gut-less /'gʌtləs/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] *informal* : lacking courage : COWARDLY • a *gutless* wimp

gutsy /'gʌtsi/ *adj* **guts-i-er**; **-est** [*also more ~; most ~*] *informal*

1 : very tough or brave • the book's *gutsy* heroine : showing courage • That was a very *gutsy* decision.

2 : having a strong and appealing flavor • *gutsy* stews • a rich *gutsy* wine

gutted *adj, Brit, informal* : very disappointed • “How did you feel when you didn't win the championship?” “I was absolutely *gutted*!”

1 gut-ter /'gʌtə/ *noun*, *pl* **-ters**

1 [*count*] **a** : a long, hollow device that is attached to the edges of a roof to catch rain and carry it away from a building — see picture at **HOUSE** **b** : a low area at the side of a road that is used to catch water and carry it away from the road

2 [*count*] : a long, narrow low section along the sides of a bowling lane

3 the gutter a : the lowest or poorest conditions of human life • He squandered all his money and wound up in *the gutter*. [=a state of severe poverty] **b US, informal** — used to refer in usually a joking way to thoughts that relate to sex • Get your mind out of *the gutter*. [=stop thinking that everything relates to sex]

2 gutter *adj, always used before a noun* : of the worst kind : offensive or immoral • *gutter* language • *gutter* politics • (Brit) the *gutter press* [=newspapers that print shocking stories about the personal lives of people]

gut-tur-al /'gʌtərəl/ *adj* : formed or pronounced in the throat • *guttural* sounds • a *guttural* grunt

– gut-tur-al-ly *adv*

gut-wrench-ing /'gʌt,rɛntʃɪŋ/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] *infor-*

G

mal : causing great mental or emotional pain • *gut-wrenching* decisions

guy /'gʌv/ *noun, Brit, informal* — used by a man to address another man (such as a customer) • “Where to, *guy*?” asked the taxi driver.

guy /'gai/ *noun, pl guys informal*

1 [count] : a man • He seems like a nice *guy*. • Who's that *guy* she's with? • It's hard to tell the *good guys* [=the heroes] from the *bad guys* [=the villains] in this movie. — see also FALL GUY, LITTLE GUY, MR. NICE GUY, WISE GUY

2 *guys* [plural] chiefly US — used to refer to two or more people • Quiet down, *guys*—I'm trying to get some sleep here! • You *guys* [=you both/all] should come visit us sometime. • Would you *guys* like anything else?

guz-zle /'gʌzəl/ *verb* **guz-zles; guz-zled; guz-zling** /'gʌzliŋ/ *informal* : to drink (something, such as beer or liquor) quickly or in large amounts [+ *obj*] She spends her days smoking cigarettes and *guzzling* (down) coffee. [no *obj*] Sip, don't *guzzle*. — sometimes used figuratively • devices that *guzzle* electricity • cars that *guzzle* gasoline ✧ In British English, *guzzle* is used for both eating and drinking.

— **guz-zler** /'gʌzələ/ *noun, pl -zlers* [count] • beer *guzzlers* — see also GAS-GUZZLER

gym /'dʒɪm/ *noun, pl gyms*

1 [count] : GYMNASIUM, HEALTH CLUB • He works out at the *gym*. • a membership at the *gym* = a *gym* membership

2 [noncount] : sports and exercise taught as a subject in school : PHYSICAL EDUCATION • Students are required to take *gym*. — often used before another noun • *gym* class • *gym* shoes [=sneakers] — see also JUNGLE GYM

gym-na-si-um /dʒɪm'neɪzɪjəm/ *noun, pl -ums* [count] : a room or building that has equipment for sports activities or exercise

gym-nast /'dʒɪm,næst/ *noun, pl -nasts* [count] : a person who performs various physical exercises on a mat or on special equipment as part of an athletic competition : a person who participates in the sport of gymnastics

gym-nas-tics /dʒɪm'næstɪks/ *noun*

1 [noncount] **a** : physical exercises for developing strength and balance • They limbered up by practicing some *gymnastics* on the mat. **b** : a sport in which athletes are judged on how well they perform various physical exercises on a mat or on special equipment • She won an Olympic gold medal in *gymnastics*. • He teaches *gymnastics* at the local high school.

2 [plural] : an activity that requires unusual ability or effort • The singer's vocal *gymnastics* are impressive. • It makes sense, but only after some complicated mental *gymnastics*.

— **gym-nas-tic** /dʒɪm'næstɪk/ *adj* • *gymnastic* moves • a *gymnastic* exhibition

gy-ne-col-o-gy (US) or chiefly Brit **gy-nae-col-o-gy** /,gaɪnə'kɔ:lədʒi/ *noun* [noncount] *medical* : the scientific study of the reproductive system of women and its diseases — compare OBSTETRICS

— **gy-ne-co-log-i-cal** (US) or chiefly Brit **gy-nae-co-log-i-cal** /,gaɪnɪkə'lɔ:dʒɪkəl/ *adj* • a *gynecological* examination

— **gy-ne-col-o-gist** (US) or chiefly Brit **gy-nae-col-o-gist** /,gaɪnə'kɔ:lədʒɪst/ *noun, pl -gists* [count]

1 **gyp** /'dʒɪp/ *noun* [singular] chiefly US, *informal* : an act of tricking or cheating someone • Is that all they give you? What a *gyp*! — compare ³GYP

2 **gyp** *verb* **gypts; gypped; gyp-ping** [+ *obj*] chiefly US, *informal* : to cheat (someone) • You paid \$100? You got/were *gypped*. [=you paid too much; you were cheated] — often + out of • They *gypped* [=cheated] us out of hundreds of dollars. • She got *gypped* out of a big promotion.

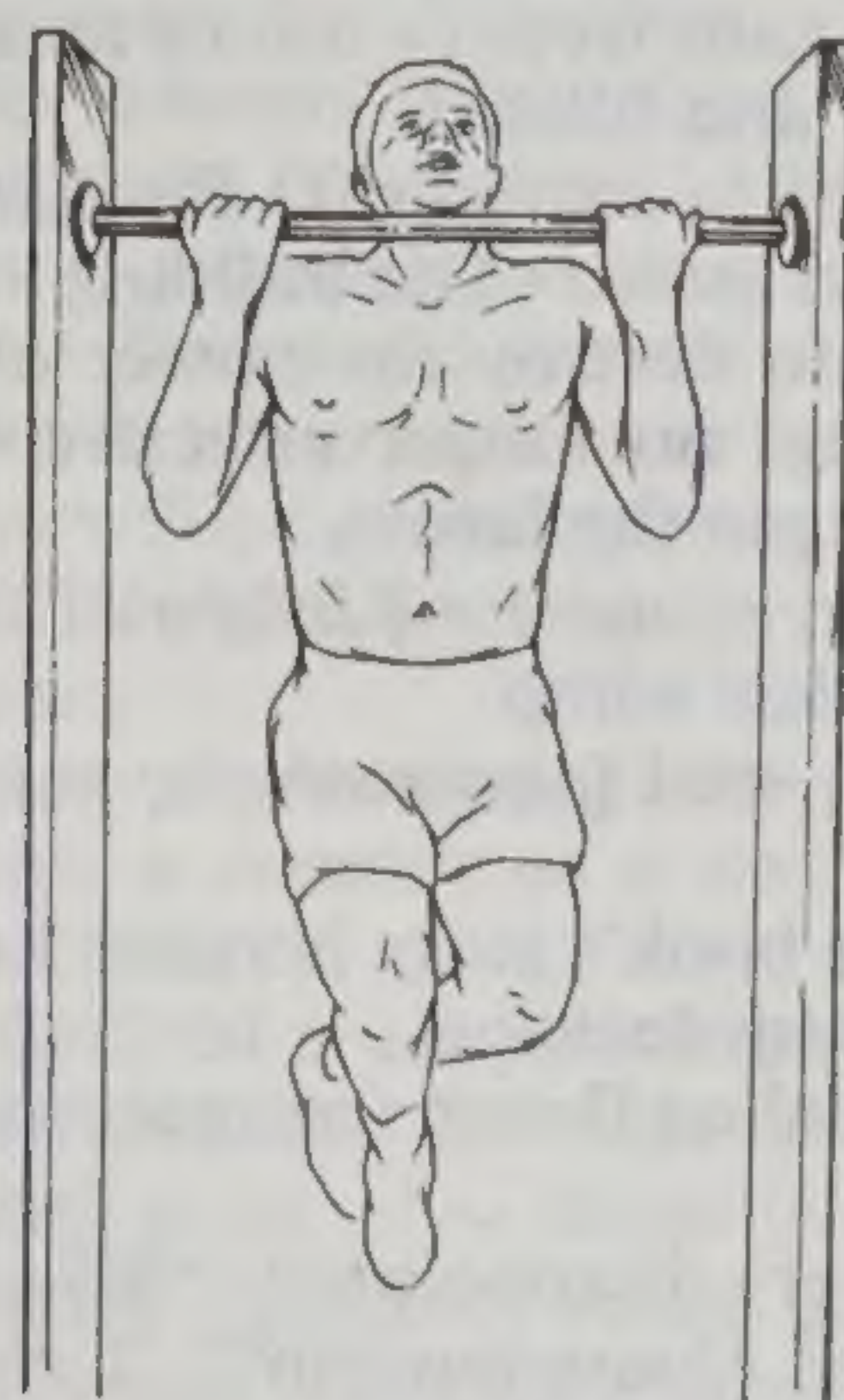
3 **gyp** *noun*
give (someone) *gyp* Brit, *informal* : to cause (someone) pain • My leg's been giving me *gyp* again.
— compare ¹GYP

gyp-sum /'dʒɪpsəm/ *noun* [noncount] : a white mineral that is used to make plaster of paris

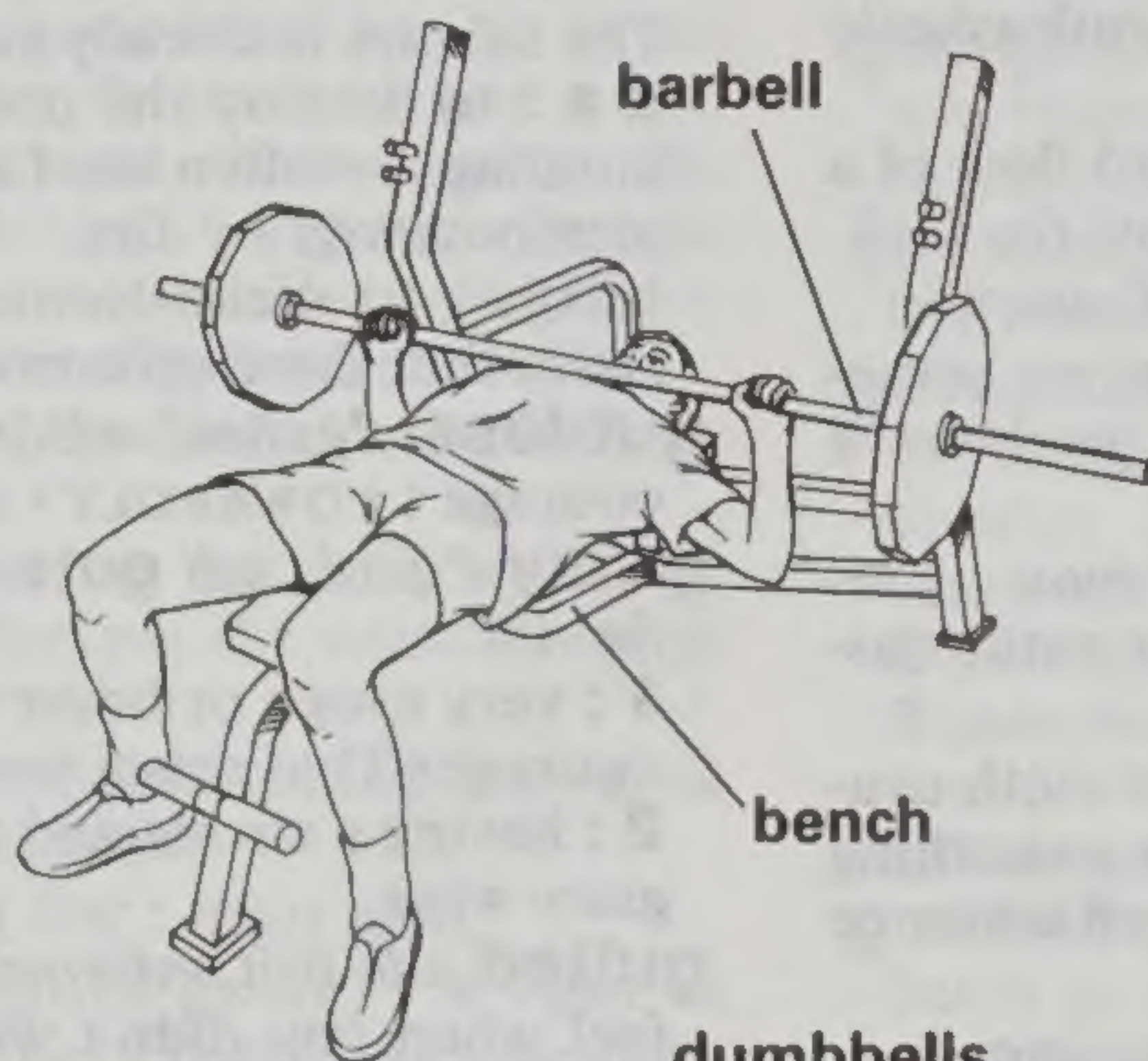
Gyp-sy also **Gip-sy** /'dʒɪpsi/ *noun, pl -sies* [count] : a member of a group of people who originally came from northern India and now live mostly in Asia, Europe, and North America ✧ The Gypsy people are known for moving from place to place instead of living in one place for a long time.

gypsy moth *noun, pl ~ moths* [count] : a type of moth

gym

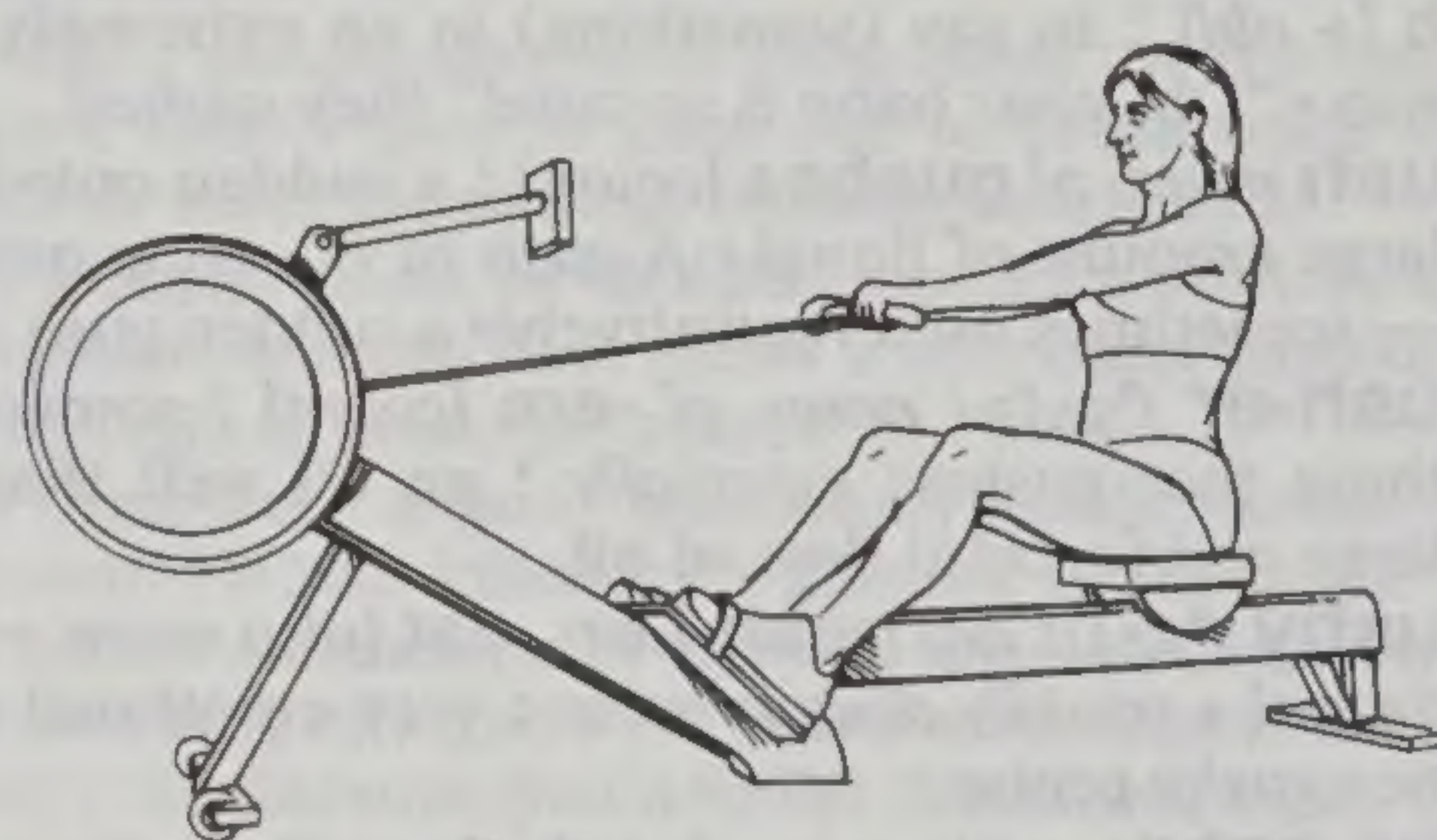


pull-up bar,
chin-up bar (US)

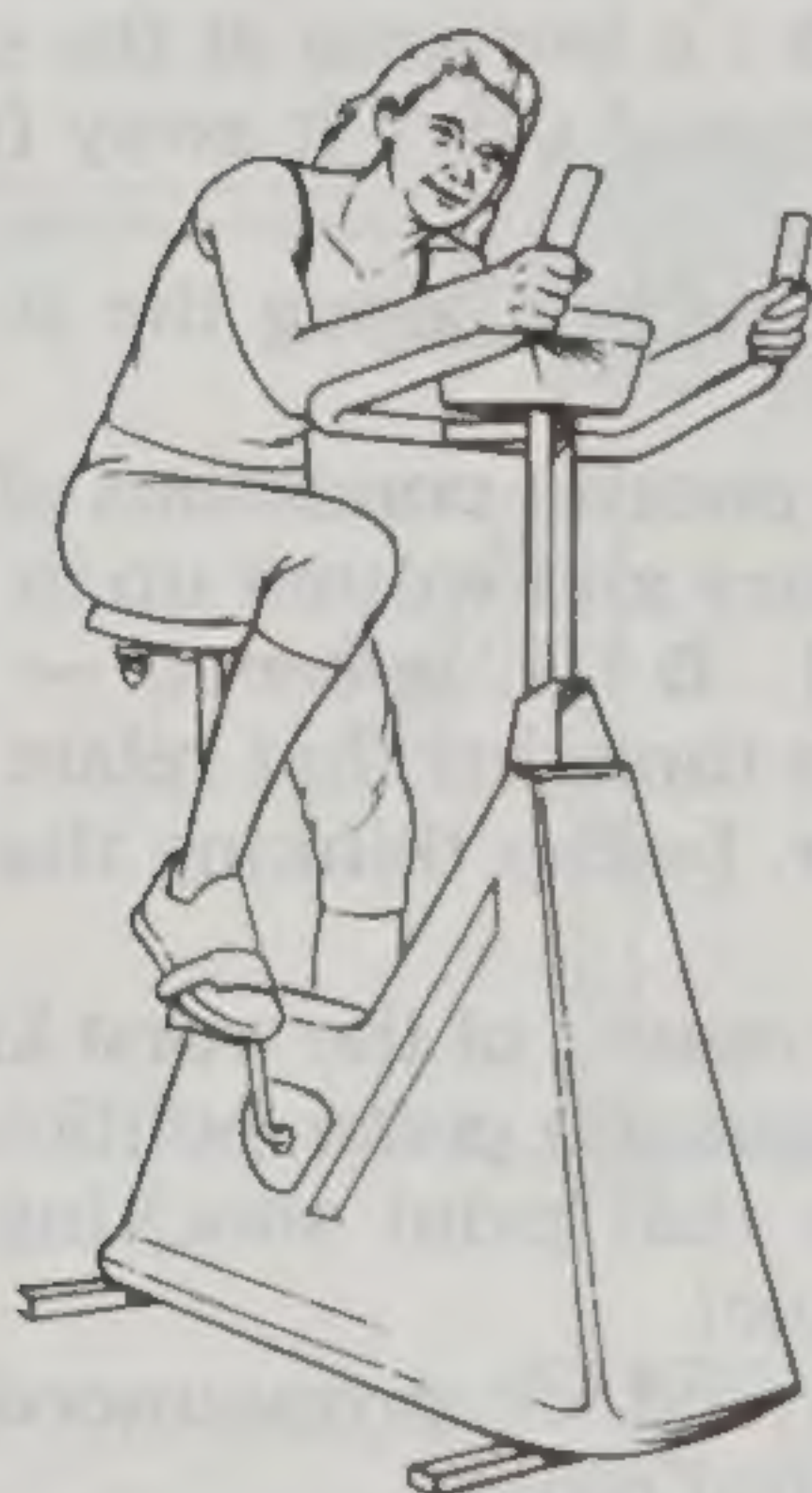


barbell

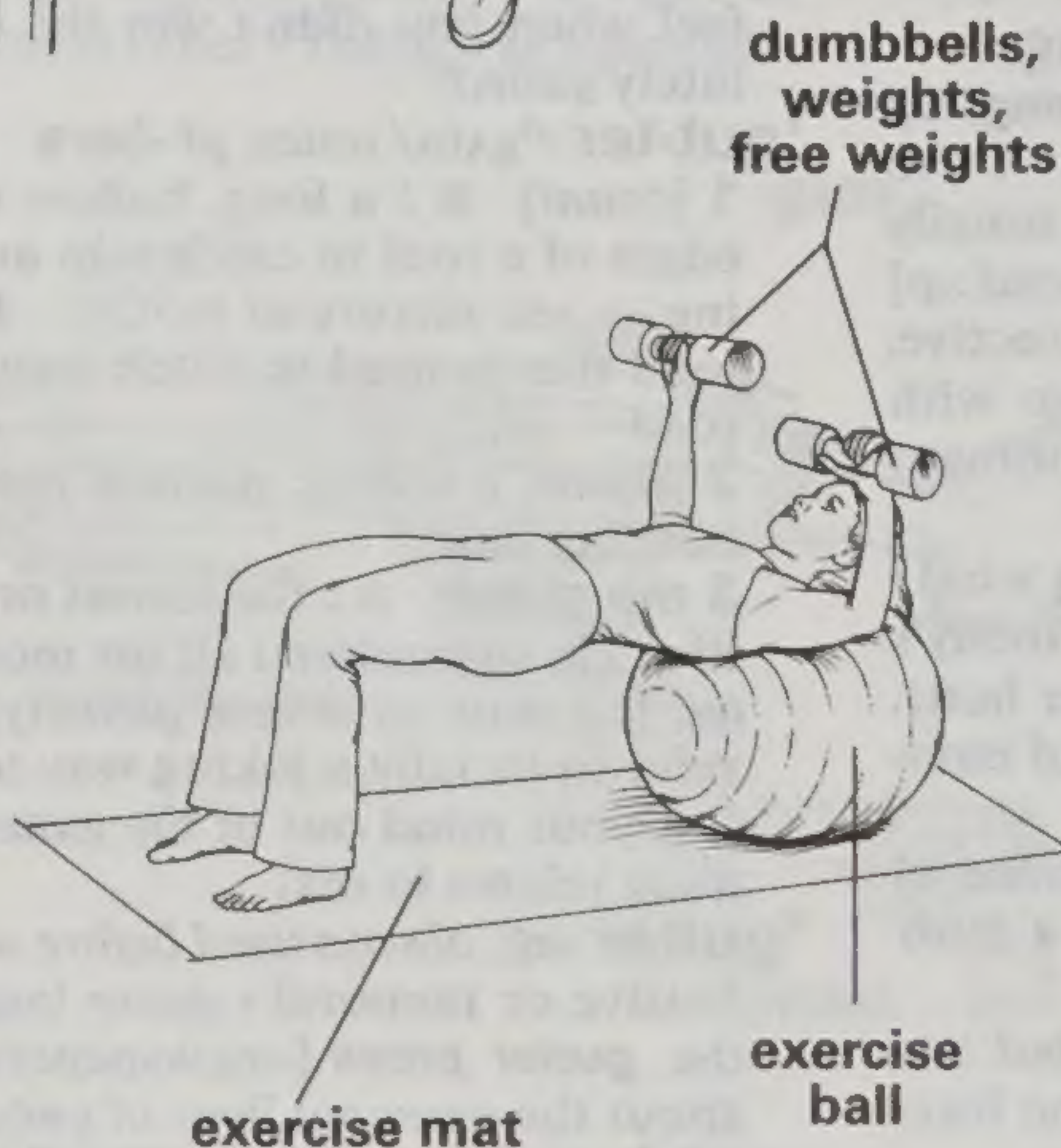
bench



rowing machine



stationary bike (US), exercise bike



dumbbells,
weights,
free weights

exercise mat

exercise
ball



treadmill



stair-climber

whose caterpillar does great damage to trees by eating the leaves

gy·rate /ˈdʒaɪ, reɪt, Brit dʒaɪˈreɪt/ *verb* -rates; -rat-ed; -rat-ing [*no obj*] : to move back and forth with a circular motion
 • They *gyrated* to the music. — sometimes used figuratively
 • The markets have been *gyrating* [=fluctuating] wildly.
 — **gy·ra·tion** /dʒaɪˈreɪʃən/ *noun*, *pl* -tions [*count*] their *gyrations* on the dance floor • market *gyrations* [=fluctuations] [*noncount*] the *gyration* of the dancers

¹**gy·ro** /ˈdʒaɪ, rou/ *noun*, *pl* -ros [*count*] : GYROSCOPE — compare ²GYRO

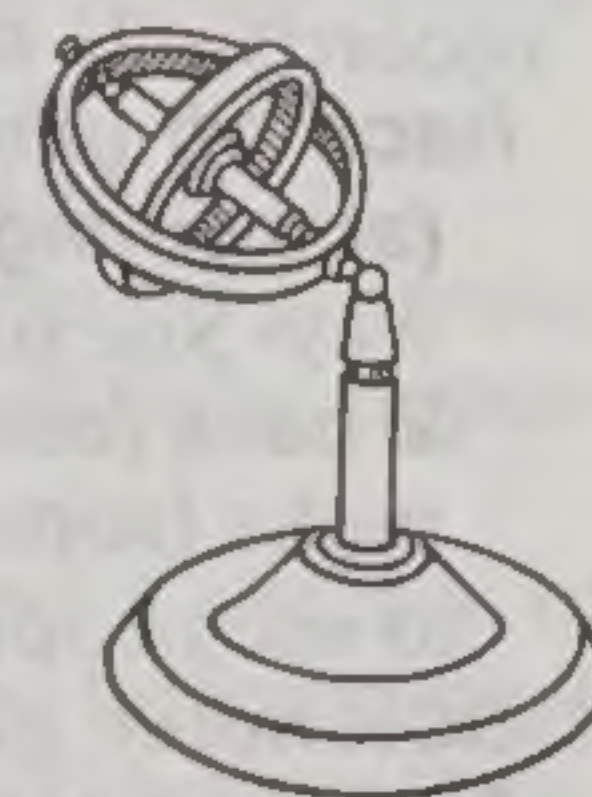
²**gy·ro** /ˈji:, rou/ *noun*, *pl* -ros [*count*] : a Greek food that con-

sists of a pita wrapped around a filling of usually lamb, onion, tomato, and a yogurt sauce — compare

¹GYRO

gy·ro·scope /ˈdʒaɪrə, skou/ *noun*, *pl* -scopes [*count*] : a wheel that spins quickly and is held in a frame that allows it to tilt in any direction ♦ Gyroscopes are used in steering devices on ships, airplanes, etc., and in other instruments. Some gyroscopes are used as toys.

— **gy·ro·scop·ic** /ˈdʒaɪrəˈska:pɪk/ *adj* • *gyroscopic instruments*



gyroscope

H

h or **H** /eɪf/ *noun*, *pl* **h's** or **hs** or **H's** or **Hs** /eɪfəz/ : the eighth letter of the English alphabet [*count*] The word “hand” begins with an *h*. [*noncount*] The word “hand” begins with *h*.

ha /ˈhɑ:/ *interj* — used especially to express surprise or a feeling of pleasure that you have when you do something or find out about something • *Ha!* And you thought I couldn't do it!

ha·be·as cor·pus /ˈheɪbɪəsˈkoʊpəs/ *noun* [*noncount*] *law* : an order to bring a jailed person before a judge or court to find out if that person should really be in jail • apply for a writ of *habeas corpus*

hab·er·dash·er /ˈhæbəˌdæʃər/ *noun*, *pl* -ers [*count*] *old-fashioned*

1 US : a person who owns or works in a shop that sells men's clothes

2 Brit : a person who owns or works in a shop that sells small items (such as needles and thread) that are used to make clothes

hab·er·dash·ery /ˈhæbəˌdæʃəri/ *noun*, *pl* -er-ies

1 [*noncount*] : goods sold by a haberdasher

2 [*count*] : a haberdasher's shop

hab·it /ˈhæbət/ *noun*, *pl* -its

1 : a usual way of behaving : something that a person does often in a regular and repeated way [*count*] It was his *habit* to take a nap after dinner every evening. • It's important that parents teach their children good study/eating *habits*. • He fell/got into some bad *habits* after graduating from college. • It's never easy to break/kick a bad *habit*. • Old *habits die hard*. [=it is hard to stop doing things that you have been doing for a long time] — often followed by *of* + -ing *verb* • He had a *habit of coughing* when he was nervous. • He has an annoying/irritating *habit of cracking* his knuckles. • Things have a nasty *habit of not turning out* the way you expect them to. [=things often do not turn out the way you expect them to] [*noncount*] He still gets up early every day from *habit*. • She always closed the door softly out of *habit*. • He reached into his pocket for his keys *by/from force of habit*. [=he did it without thinking because it is what he usually does] • I'm a *creature of habit*. [=I always do the same things in the same way] ♦ If you are *in the habit of* doing something, you do it often or usually. • I'm *in the habit of* reading before I go to bed. ♦ If you say that you are *not in the habit of* doing something, you mean that you do not do it or that you do not usually do it. • I'm *not in the habit of* getting involved in other people's arguments. • I'm *not in the habit of* making predictions, but I don't think there's much doubt about who will win this election. ♦ To *get in/into the habit of* doing something means to do something in a regular or repeated way so that it becomes a habit. • I had *gotten into the habit of* reading before going to bed. • She *got in the habit of* leaving her keys on the counter so she wouldn't forget them. ♦ To *fall/slip into the habit of* doing something is to begin to do something in a regular way without realizing that you are doing it. • It's easy to *fall into the habit of* not eating enough for breakfast. ♦ If you *make a habit of* doing something or *make it a habit* to do something, you do it often. • They have *made a habit of* criticizing each other whenever possible. • The team has *made a habit of* winning the crucial games. • Yes, you can leave work early today, but don't *make a habit of* it.

2 [*count*] : a strong need to use a drug, to smoke cigarettes,

etc. • He hasn't been able to kick his cocaine *habit*. • I used to have a three-pack-a-day cigarette *habit*. [=I used to smoke three packs of cigarettes a day]

3 [*count*] : a piece of clothing worn by members of a religious group • a monk's/nun's *habit*

hab·it·able /ˈhæbətəbəl/ *adj* : suitable or fit to live in • The house is not *habitable*.

hab·i·tat /ˈhæbəˌtæt/ *noun*, *pl* -tats [*count*] : the place or type of place where a plant or animal naturally or normally lives or grows • a creature's natural *habitat* • tropical *habitats*

hab·i·ta·tion /ˈhæbəˌteɪʃən/ *noun*, *pl* -tions

1 [*noncount*] : the act of living in a place • The house was not fit for human *habitation*.

2 [*count*] *formal* : a place where someone lives • a wilderness area with few *habitations*

hab·it·form·ing /ˈhæbətˌfoʊmɪŋ/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : causing a strong need to regularly have something (such as a drug) or do something • Heroin is a *habit-forming* [=addictive] drug. • Eating chocolate can be *habit-forming*.

ha·bit·u·al /həˈbɪtʃəwəl/ *adj*

1 : done regularly or repeatedly • He was fired for his *habitual* lateness. • *habitual* drug use • They went for their *habitual* evening walk.

2 *always used before a noun* : doing something regularly or repeatedly • She was a *habitual* liar. [=she always lied] • *habitual* criminals/offenders

— **ha·bit·u·al·ly** *adv* • He was *habitually* late.

ha·bit·u·ate /həˈbɪtʃəˌweɪt/ *verb* -ates; -at-ed; -at-ing [*+ obj*] *formal* : to cause (a person or animal) to become familiar with and used to a particular place, situation, etc. — + *to* • The dog slowly became *habituated to* its new home. = The dog slowly *habituated* itself to its new home.

— **ha·bit·u·a·tion** /həˈbɪtʃəˌweɪʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*]

ha·bi·tué /həˈbɪtʃəˌweɪ/ *noun*, *pl* -tu-és [*count*] : a person who is often at a specified place • a *habitué* of bars • race-track *habitués*

ha·ci·en·da /ˈhɑ:siˈendə, Brit ˈhæsiˈendə/ *noun*, *pl* -das [*count*] : a large estate in a country where people speak Spanish

¹**hack** /ˈhæk/ *verb* hacks; hack-ed; hack-ing

1 : to cut (something or someone) many times and usually in a rough and violent way. [*+ obj*] He *hacked* [=chopped] the tree down with an ax. = He *hacked* down the tree with an ax. • The victim had been *hacked* to death. • The table had been *hacked* to pieces. [*no obj*] He *hacked* (away) at the tree with an ax. — see also HACK OFF (below)

2 [*+ obj*] : to make (a path) by cutting plants • They used a machete to *hack* a path through the jungle. • They *hacked* their way through the jungle.

3 [*+ obj*] *informal* : to manage or deal with (something) successfully — usually used in negative statements • He just *couldn't hack* the new job. — often used in the phrase *hack it* • After two weeks at the new job, he decided that he just *couldn't hack it*.

4 [*no obj*] : to cough loudly • I could hear him *hacking* (away) all night long. • The patient has a *hacking cough*. [=a loud, dry cough]

5 *computers* : to secretly get access to the files on a computer or network in order to get information, cause damage,